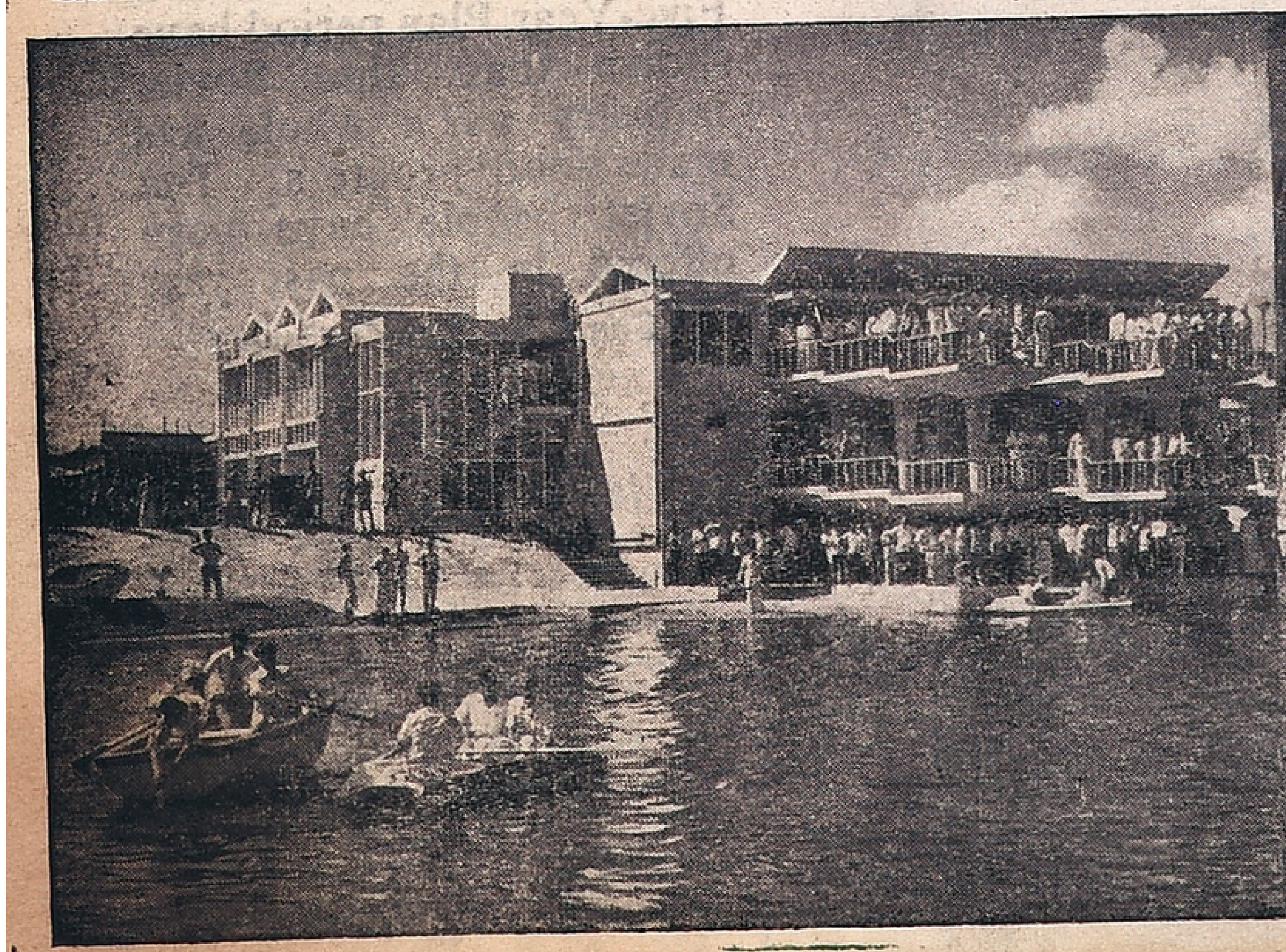
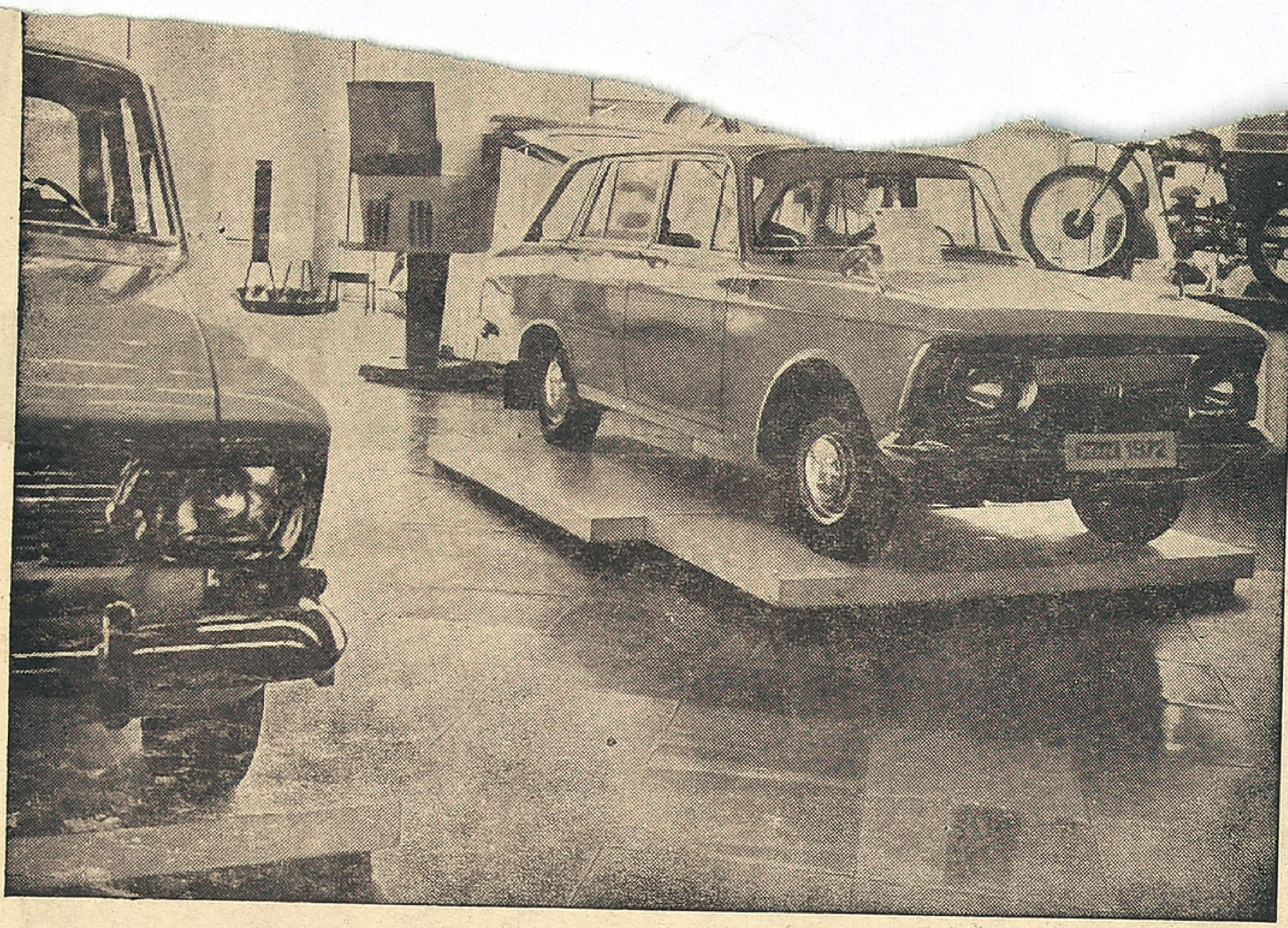
FREE INDIA

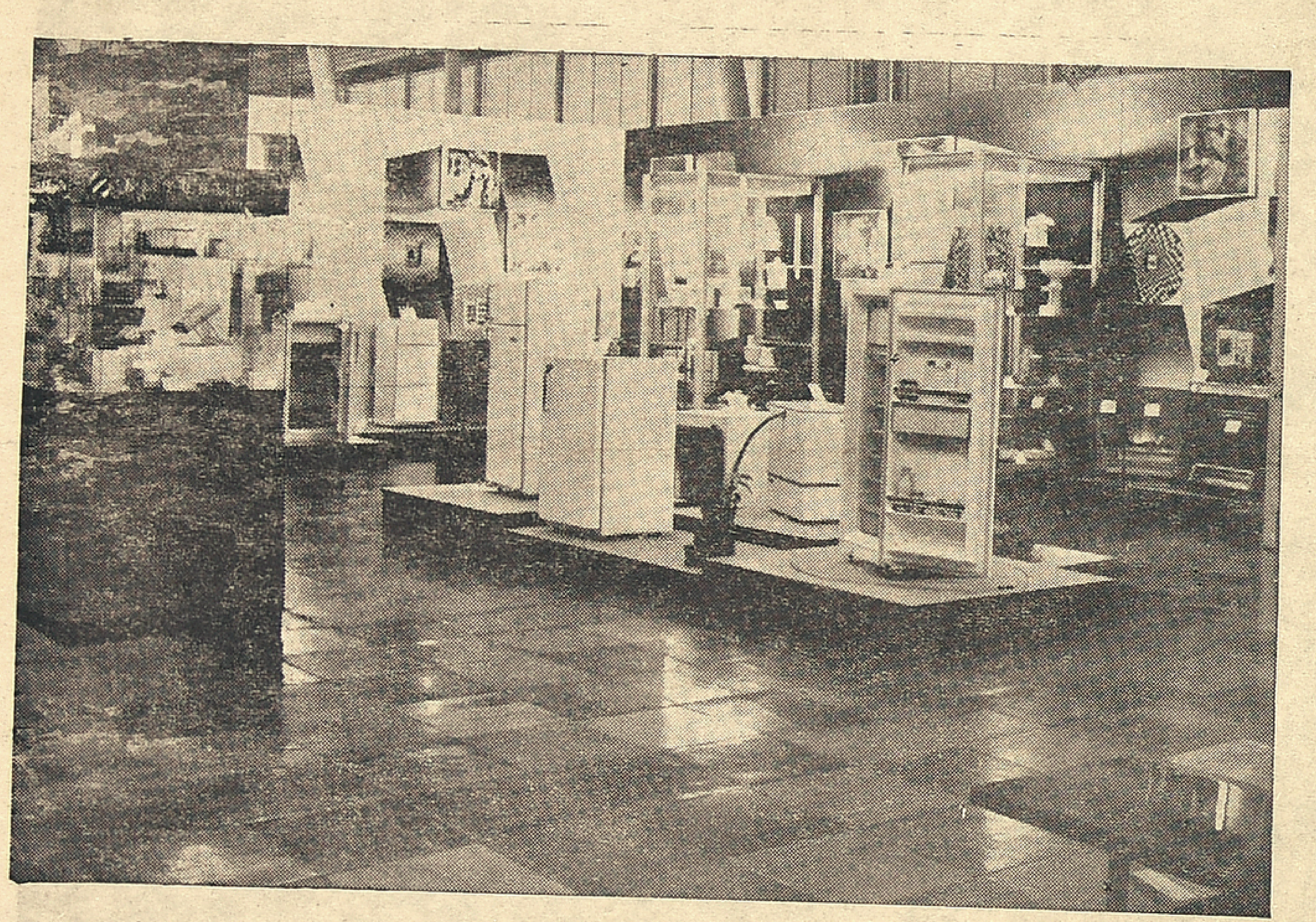
34th Year Of Publication March 11, 1973 ★ 20 Paise



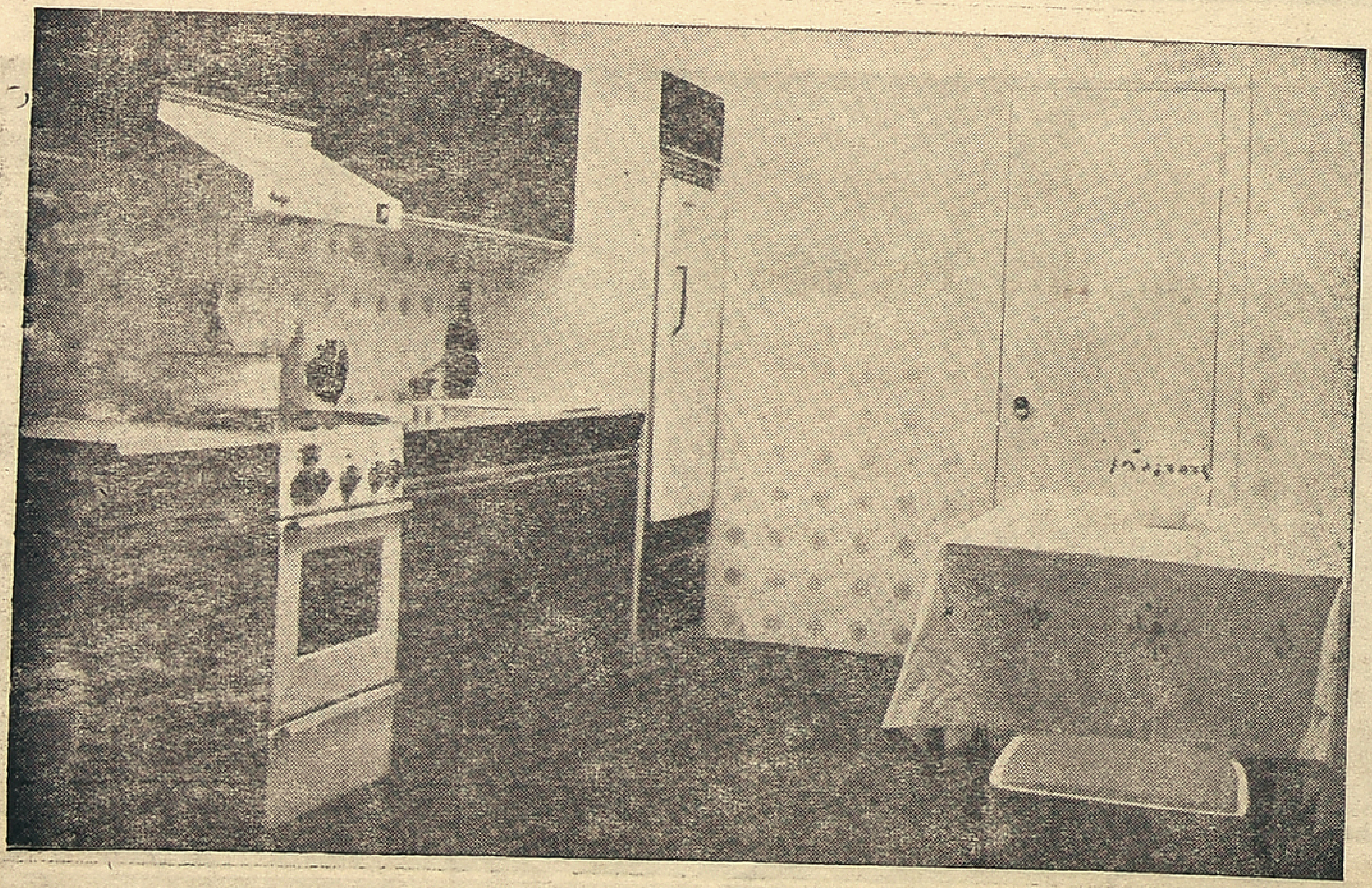
SOUTH INDIA'S FINEST PICTORIAL WEEKLY



New Models of Automobiles on display.



Electric appliances for the household.



Kitchen equipment for small flats.

Emphasis On Consumer Goods

The ninth five-year plan of the USSR that is being successfully implemented, envisages faster rates of growth for the consumer goods industry. The light industry has a major part to play in realising this goal.

Compared with the previous five-year plan period, capital investments in the light industry will nearly double. The volume of production in the field of light industry will increase by another 40 per cent. This will mean that by 1975, light industry will be producing 11,000 million metres of cloth and 800-830 million pairs of footwear. The production of knitted wear will go up 1.5 times, that of garments 1.4 times while that of China and glazed earthenware will double. A similar rise in the production will be recorded by all the 30 branches of the light industry.

The results of the first year of the new Five-Year Plan period have shown that the Soviet industry as a whole has made good progress. The Soviet people have been offered in the past year

(Contd. on Third Cover)

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READ
FREE
INDIA

Unlearnt Lessons of Opportunist Alliances

New Move For Anti--Congress Front Sure To Fail

IT is amazing how some leaders refuse to learn anything from the repeated lessons administered to them by the people of this country.

Over the years it has been demonstrated again and again that any political party, group or individual, who treats the Indian people as a gullible mob, invites his own political destruction in the long run. Sometimes temporary successes are possible to achieve by gimmicks, as was possible during the key days of anti-Congressism in 1967. It was not because the people were befooled by the slogans raised by the Opposition parties, but because they wanted to administer a shock to the Congress which was moving at that time speedily on the course of total degeneration.

One would have expected that Sri Biju Patnaik would have drawn the correct conclusion from the smashing defeat inflicted by Smt Nandini Satpathy on Sri Biren Mitra who enjoyed the support of the Utkal Congress, the Jana Sangh, the Swatantra Party and some others. But Sri Patnaik's latest move would give an impression that he has learnt nothing and forgotten everything.

ALTERNATIVE TO CONGRESS

Sri Patnaik wants to build a common front of various non-Congress parties with the avowed purpose of building a "viable altrenative to the Congress". Knowing fully well that the clash of personal ambition of leaders of various opportunistic groups is a major factor determining their attitude, it is not surprising that Sri Patnaik should have tried to rope in Sri Jaya Prakash Narayan to head this motley crowd.

In early sixties, an American who had come to take up his assignment in the US Embassy in New Delhi, was going round the country to make an opinion survey of the question that bothered the American most at that time; "After Nehru Who?" In course of his conversation with a newsman, this US official suggested the name of Sri Jaya Prakash Narayan as a likely successor. The Indian newsman pointed out that Sri Jaya Prakash Narayan had retired from party politics and therefore, there was no question of his succeeding Nehru as a Prime Minister of this country. The US official immediately quipped: "The very fact that Mr Narayan is a non-party person will make him more acceptable to diverse groups and sections."

Sri Patnaik, therefore, has now made a new discovery in trying to pick up Sri Narayan as a likely acceptable person. But the whole scheme has some basic snags. First, those who know Sri Narayan well, can safely predict that over the years he has built a way of functioning which enables him to have a finger in every pie, but does not burden himself with the responsibility of his action or inaction.

He believes in responsibility free politics and, therefore, it is on the cards that while he would like to be associated with any move of the type which Sri Patnaik is making, he would also like that his association should be tenuous and a little distant. The art of having the cake as well as eating it in politics is Sri Jaya Prakash Narayan's forte.

Secondly, except the CPM which has by now amply demonstrated its thoroughly opportunistic politics by joining hands with the Jana Sangh, Swatantra Party, Utkal Congress, BKD and other groups, most other political parties of any size or significance either in the country as a whole or in States, have taken certain postures so diverse and contradictory that it would be difficult to bring them on any viable political platform. The only alternative then to bring these parties together is to give a negative slogan of "Indira Hatao", or a new variation of it. The fate that the slogan met in the mid-term elections to Parliament is too recent for these parties to forget.

KARUNANIDHI'S GOVT.

It is possible that an attempt may be made for forge a front on purely regional, sectional or non-political issues. Such an attempt will be playing into the hands of those imperialist powers which want to weaken this country by encouraging a process of disintegration.

Sri Patnaik's move is a reaction of political frustration of these parties, emanating from their inability to overcome the shock of their rout in 1971 and 1972. Except for Sri Kamaraj

(Contd. on page 2)

Readymade Pre-Fabricated Houses On Hire Purchase

M/s. V. G. Panneerdas & Co, well known hire-purchase firm of Madras, has embarked on a scheme of "A lakh of houses in ten years" under the name of V. G. P. Housing Private Ltd.

The first pre-fabricated concrete low-budget permanent house of the project was declared open on January 24 at Dr. Seethapathy-nagar, Velachery, Madras—42 by Dr Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Mr. K. Rajaram, Minister for Housing and Tourism presided over the function.

The scheme provides for the purchase of ready-made pre-fabricated houses on easy instalment basis.

To study the working of the grand housing projects in East Asian countries, especially in Singapore and Hongkong, Mr. V. G. Selvaraj, youngest of the V. G. Panneerdas brothers has left on a tour of these countries, on March 2. Mr. Selvaraj is accompanied by his wife.

Picture shows the Chief Minister inaugurating the scheme.

New Move....

who has not only preserved but expanded his base in Tamil Nadu, most of the other leaders whom Sri Patnaik has contacted so far are quantities which are either politically afraid or on their way to political oblivion.

Sri Karunanidhi heads a Government which has a majority in the Assembly. But he cannot be unaware of the sharp decline in his party's prestige amongst the Tamil masses. The corruption which has become all pervasive, is by now a household word in Tamil Nadu and, therefore, Sri Karunanidhi cannot but be afraid of his party's future in the next elections.

Sri Promode Das Gupta who by his reckless politics helped only to divide the progressive forces in West Bengal, and has immobilised the ranks of his own party, has been unable to work out a practical programme of action even for his own cadres. Sri Raj Narain and Sri Karpuri Thakur have made their own valuable contributions in splitting the Socialist Party and in derailing it from any action-oriented politics.

All these refuse to learn from the stark political reality in the country and from the lessons of the past, which is that the Indian people would not respond to a barren negativist politics. Any combination of non-Congress parties if it were to inspire even a semblance of confidence, would have to offer something more than what was done in 1967 or 1971.

It is easy for Sri Patnaik to proclaim that all of these leaders feel the urge for forming a national alternative to the Congress. Evidently any one who is in politics will be anxious to replace the ruling party. But between the subjective feeling and the creation of objective conditions to do so, there is a wide gap, and those who want to cover this gap by unprincipled and opportunistic alliances can hardly hope to succeed.

HEART-SEARCHING NEEDED

However, a more relevant question perhaps in this context is why this move has been initiated at this stage and why is it that leaders of these non-Congress parties appear hopeful of launching a successful onslaught on the ruling party at this particular moment. All honest Congressmen, and more particularly the party's leadership, must do a serious heart searching about their acts of omission and commission, both on the Governmental front, in order to find an answer to this question.

Rising prices and mounting unemployment undoubtedly are the main economic causes of the country which the reactionary parties or extremist elements and other agents of vested interests are not the only reason.

The political credibility of the Congress has suffered a serious decline. The inflow of opportunists from all quarters into the party and the important positions given to them within the organisation threatens to make the Congress indistinguishable from what it was before 1969. The dwindling strength of commitment to principled politics on the part of the Congress leaders is straining to make it a party of petty intrigues and manipulations. The distance between the people and the ruling party is tending to widen and once again the Congress is looking like an entity incapable of taking firm decisions, and more so of implementing them.

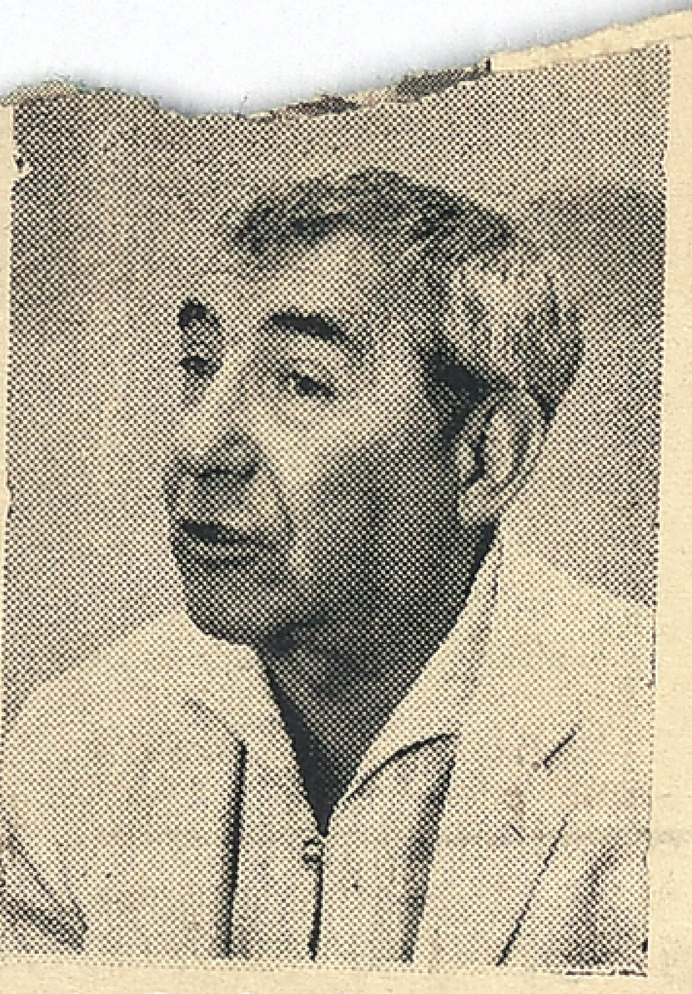
It is this which has encouraged men like Sri Patnaik to make the move. It will be wise to remember that Sri Patnaik is adept in the game of political manipulations, He must have undoubtedly his eyes on the strains and stresses developing within the Congress in various States and the facade of a national alternative to the Congress, he must have thought, would provide a platform for disgruntled Congressmen to forge links with. The trek back from the Congress to the BKD in Uttar Pradesh and the total collapse of the Congress in Andhra Pradesh which welcomed men like Sri N. G. Ranga the other day, is a grave warning.

While the political maturity of the Indian people is in an assurance that unprincipled and opportunistic moves such as the present one would not succeed, the Congress must get over its present paralysis if it wishes to regain its vanishing elan.

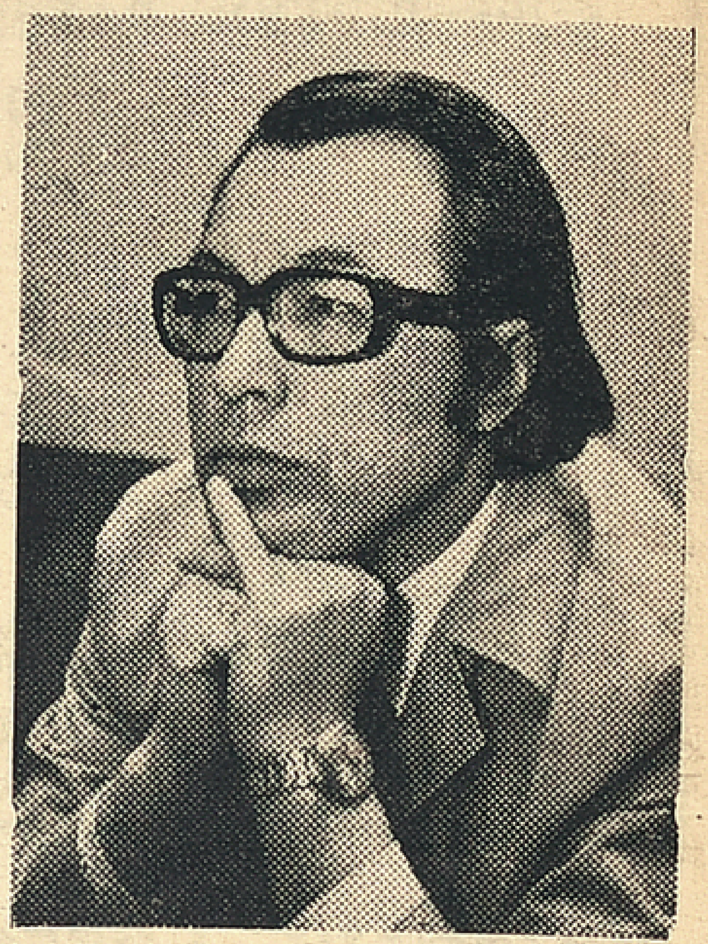
—M. R. K. in Mainstream.

...Characters

Violeta Palcinskaite, Lithuanian Poetess



Alexei Arbuzov, Famous Modern Soviet Playwright



Yuri Rytkheu Chukchi Writer

"THERE is no conflict between the individual and the Government in the Soviet Union since every individual forms part of the Government" said Mr. Alexei Arbuzov, the famous Soviet playwright in the course of an informal chat with writers and pressmen on March 8 in Madras.

Mr. Arbuzov was on a three-day visit to Madras heading a group of five Soviet writers and poets touring India under the cultural exchange programme between India and the USSR.

Speaking about his tour impressions he said that his interest, as a representative of the Soviet theatre, was theatre, dance and music and that he was deeply impressed by the arts of India. He added that he found good talent among Tamil play actors

Mr. Arbuzov and the other members of his delegation said they were all deeply touched by the warmth with which the people of India welcomed them.

In the course of the informal discussion that followed, Mr. Arbuzov, answering a question said, that the characters he created in his plays are neither exact copies of real people he had met nor highly idealized. Human beings are mixtures of good and bad and he tried to bring out the good qualities in bad people and the bad qualities in the good. People who are out of the ordinary attract his attention. Humanism dominates the Soviet plays, he said.

Asked about the Soviet people's attitude to arts and culture he said that the Soviet society consisted of the largest number of educated people and the largest number of books and magazines are published in the USSR. Libraries in the Soviet Union are the biggest in number and size and that reflected the Soviet people's thirst for knowledge.

Answering another question he said that Solzanitsyn did not represent the real Soviet people.

Mr. Yuri Rytkheu, a Chukchi writer and member of the delegation said that last year the Soviet Union celebrated its 50th anniversary which almost coincided with the 25th anniversary of the Republic of India and that both countries had achieved great progress in arts and culture after their liberation.

Mr. Rytkheu answered a number of questions on how the Soviet Union solved its language problem. He explained the three-language formula that prevails in the Soviet system of education. In the beginning the child is taught the mother-tongue and later it learns the Russian language also. Finally a foreign language such as English, French or German is introduced.

Answering a question whether there was any opposition to the introduction of the Russian language as the second one in the schools of the non-Russian areas, he quipped, "which fool would deprive himself of a treasure-house of knowledge offered by the Russian language? The students learnt all the three languages without feeling the odium of compulsion. Moreover there is no fear of any one language being suppressed by any other language, as all the languages enjoy equal rights. The very fact that my native language Chukchi is provided with a script and flourishes as a medium of instruction, even though the Chukchi population is as small as 14,000, is proof of the protection enjoyed by minority languages".

Madame Violeta Palcinskaite, a Lithuanian Poetess recited some of her poems and Madame Irina L. Lebedeva read the English translations of some of Pushkin's poems and of a modern Russian poem on the Ashes of Nehru.

The members of the delgation visited Mahabalipuram, Kalakshetra and a few music and dance schools in the city and witnessed a Tamil play during their stay in the city.

They left for Bangalore on the morning of March 9.

ON THE COVER

The Cooum river in the heart of Madras city was opened for boating recently at a colourful function.

Top picture shows the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M. Karunanidhi with some of his colleagues having a boat ride after the inauguration.

Bottom picture shows a view of the beautiful boat club building and the Chief Minister inaugurating the new tourist attraction.

—Courtesy: Asian Travels News

K. R. PADMANABHAN

MEETING SAVARKAR AGAIN

City Train Timings

With effect from Nov. 1

MADRAS CENTRAL

	Dep.	Arr.
Howrah Janata	8–40	19–15
Tatanagar Exp.	12–40	14–10
Howrah Mail	20–55	5–05
Circars Exp.	22–00	6–40
New Delhi Exp.	8–25	17–55
Hyderabad Exp.	13–35	10–15
Delhi Janata	15–10	15–55
New Delhi-Air-conditioned/Grand Trunk Express*	19–45	10–55
Dadar Express	10–00	17–15
Bombay Janata	13–40	14–00
Bombay Mail	21–50	5–15
Tirupati Exp.	7–00	21–40
Brindavan Exp.	8–10	19–05
Bangalore Exp.	12–45	15–20
Bangalore Mail	21–15	5–40
West Coast Exp.	12–25	14–45
Kerala Express	16–25	9–35
Mangalore Mail	20–20	7–00
Nilagiri Exp.	20–00	7–20
Cochin Mail	19–20	6–10
Gudur Pass.	8–45	22–50
Gudur Pass. (via Arkonam)	—	21–45
Vijayawada Pass.	15–20	12–40
Vijayawada Parcel Passenger	23–45	4–15
Raichur Pass.	9–25	20–10
Tirupati Pass.	17–00	9–45
Bangalore Pass.	6–05	21–00
Jolarpettai Pass.	11–20	14–20
Arkonam Pass.	18–10	—
Coimbatore Parcel Passenger	21–25	6–10

Janata Express—III Class only.

*This train will run as air-conditioned express ex-Madras Central on Mondays and Saturdays and arrive Madras Central on Wednesdays and Fridays. On the other days of the week, it will run as Grand Trunk Express.

MADRAS EGMORE (MAIN LINE)

Rock Fort Express	9–10	17–10
VirudunagarJanata	13–40	7–45
Rameswaram Exp.	19–30	8–05
Tiruchi Pass	6–45	12–05
Villupuram Pass.	15–55	12–05
Trivandrum Pass.	21–30	5–20
Madurai Parcel Passenger	22–25	4–50
Shencottah Pass.	—	21–10
(CHORD LINE)		
Trivandrum Exp.	8–10	18 10
Tirunelveli Exp.	18–15	8–35
Trivandrum Mail	20–30	7–15
Pandyan Exp.	20–10	6–40
Tuticorin Express	21–45	5–40
Rameswaram Passenger	11–00	16–25
MADRAS BEACH		
Chingleput Pass.	17–07	10–40
Kancheepuram Passenger	17–33	9–50
Kancheepuram Passenger *	18–12	9–18

*Will run on all days except on Sundays.

Sunday service will be observed only on Madras Beach-Tambaram Electrified suburban section

Janata Express—Third Class only.

THE years 1922 and 1923 were strenuous years for Aiyar. The Tamil Gurukulam, started in 1922, was having many "teething troubles." The very idea of a residential school imparting education not only in arts and sciences but also in crafts and agriculture was a new one; Aiyar had himself no previous experience of running an educational institution, but had taken the challenge in the cause of national education; the Government of the day, for obvious reasons, was not aiding the institution with funds nor did Aiyar seek it, and so the Gurukulam had to stand on its own legs with the generous help of the public. But Aiyar had abundance of patience and h's attention to detail was remarkable. He went into every problem in its totality, whether it was cutting a tree into boards for doors and windows or preparing bricks for building walls and worked out the details of every operation and its result in a methodical manner. His daily diaries of the period show entries indicating all the varied problems he had to solve, and also details of how many boards were made out of a particular tree or how many bricks were finally obtained out of a pit dug for the purpose. Every item of work, including the desilting of wells, was done by the Gurukulam students and staff themselves, with Aiyar too participating, thus saving a lot of expense and at the same time teaching self-help self reliance to the youngsters. Learning by doing was the motto.

But, however much one may do things by himself, however much the students and staff co-operate whole-heartedly, still the need for funds for purchasing raw material, provisions for the kitchen and tools and implements had to be met from some source or the other. And, when a smithy or a workshop was started, it needed capital investment. The problem of funds remained a headache. Aiyar appealed in the Press, the Tamil weeklies "Navasakti", "Tamil Nadu" and "Kumaran", the English daily "The Hindu" and the Tamil daily "Swanesamitran" all extended support. Aiyar took every opportunity to meet leaders of public opinion; many promises were made, and some were kept. It was at this time that a suggestion was made that if Aiyar would send someone to collect funds in Malaya, there would be a good response. Aiyar sent his chief assistant T. R. Mahadeva Aiyar (an advocate and nationalist worker who had dedicated himself to the Gurukulam and was the "Upa-Acharya" of the institution) to Malaya. The response was impressive and a sizeable amount was either collected or promised. Mahadeva Aiyar returned to India leaving instructions for the completion of the collection and its transfer to India. But before the funds could be transferred to India and to Aiyar, a fly got into the ointment and ruined the whole cause, as we shall see later on.

In December 1923, Aiyar went to Cocanada (Kakinada) in Andhra to attend the annual session of the Indian National Congress meeting there under the presidentship of Maulana Mahomed Ali. Aiyar was not one who would thrust himself into the forefront for speeches or party confabulations. But he stood for certain principles and was not hesitant to advance them despite obstacles. In Cocanada, he desired to move a resolution defining Complete Independence as India's goal. President Mahomed Ali dissuaded him, but Aiyar would not accept to keep silent. With the Chair's reluctant permission Aiyar moved his resolution and spoke in favour. But the temper was such that there was none to second him! The resolution fell through, and Mahomed Ali smiled as though to say, 'I told you so'. But Aiyar was the least perturbed: he had done his part and if it was not time yet for fulfilment, well, he would wait. The Congress took six years to pass the resolution, in 1929.

Returning from Cocanada, one of the first things that Aiyar did was to meet T. V. Seshagiri Aiyar, former Judge of the Madras High Court who was taking active interest in national well-being, in regard to an appeal by Seshagiri Aiyar calling upon the Brahmins "to establish an institution where their boys should be given some technical training in addition to cultural education, so that they might not be turned adrift in the world and add to the number of unemployed." V.V.S. Aiyar felt "the problem covered even a larger ground than that" as he was sure that this was not a problem of the Brahmin community alone; even Non-Brahmin youth who took to English education were in the same boat. When he discussed the que tion with Seshagiri Aiyar, he was able to persuade Seshagiri Aiyar that in the national interest any new institution intended for such education should be open to youth of all classes and religions. Conveying news of the meeting, Aiyar said in a Press statement (published in "The Hindu" of February 9, 1924), "I then told him (Seshagiri Aiyar) that one of the objects with which the Tamil Gurukula Vidyalaya had been started was to give our boys such an education as would enable them use their hands and brains with equal ease even as the youths of England, France and America so that while some of the youths going out into the world after finishing their training here might become scholars or poets or mystics, others (and as we expect, the vast majority of them) may become farmers, weavers, merchants, fitters, engineers, miners, chemists, physicists, captains of industry and the like. Shriman Seshagiri Aiyar was then satisfied about the necessity of such an institution opening its doors to all Indians alike and has written to me after going through the prospectus of the Tamil Gurukula Vidyalaya, Shermadevi, that this institution has immense potentialities within it for the achievement of the objects which both of us hold dear to our hearts."

"But, to realise the ideal that the Tamil Gurukula Vidyalaya has held out before itself," Aiyar added, "it wants immense funds. Industrial teaching, laboratory work, and even agriculture require a large outlay and unless our countrymen come to its aid immediately and help it steadily, the growth of the Gurukula will be too slow for the requirement of the times in which we live. But if our countrymen will pursue the suggestions made by Shriman Seshagiri Aiyar in his original letter before the idea of Gurukula was placed prominently before him, the problem can easily be solved. Let all our countrymen who have at heart the welfare of the future generation, among whom I hope they will not forget that their children too are, look upon the help that they give to this Tamil Gurukula as an insurance or an annuity fund for the benefit of their children. While some can help the Gurukula with a yearly donation of hundreds or rupees, there will be very few who cannot spare at least one rupee per month for the Gurukula. Even the poorest, if they can appreciate the necessity of developing this institution, can forego their coffee once a week and save a rupee once a month for the Gurukula. If only our countrymen could wake up and help the Gurukula, I feel sure that even in the course of a year, the Gurukula will grow to be a university which will equal on the

(*Contd. on page* 10)

THE FAMOUS ASTROLOGER
(*OFFICE ESTD : 1924*)

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Balance Between T[...]gical And Environmental Goals

By HARJI MALIK

DANIEL P. Moynihan, the newly-appointed U. S. Ambassador to India, recently said the world is facing a grave environmental crisis which, if neglected for long, could lead to disastrous consequences.

He warned that we may expect that by the year 2000 the carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere—the result of the burning of fossil fuels—will have increased a quarter. This could raise the temperature of the earth's atmosphere by 7 degrees Fahrenheit. This, in turn, would likely raise the level of seas by 10 feet.

This, he added in jest, would surely solve some of the urban problems of the world but would hardly improve the circumstance of mankind.

Dr. Moynihan who is familiar with the environmental problems of the United States and Western Europe, is all for rapid technological development but not at the cost of man's environment. He favours a progressive, pragmatic approach, a sort of balance between our economic and environmental goals.

Dr. V. M. G. Nair, an Indian ecologist who has studied environmental problems in several countries, including India and the United States, fully shares Dr. Moynihan's views. He thinks a fundamental clash between development and environment is not inevitable. You can sure avoid it, he asserts, if technology is applied in a planned and systematic way.

Dr. Nair, who is Professor of Environmental Control at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, was in India recently on a short visit. During his stay, he spent several weeks investigating the problems of aquatic weeds in his home state of Kerala.

Explaining the experiment in an interview in Delhi recently, he said, these weeds are already choking Cochin Harbour and threaten other waterways in the state. The problem is to find chemicals which will kill the weeds without polluting the water and destroying the fish which are the chief food of the people and the state's major foreign exchange earner. Dr. Nair is working on a controlled experimental plot along the Malabar coast where new chemicals are being tested for their residual effects. Chemical pollution in inland waters and the sea remains his main interest.

Talking of Kerala's two rivers, the Kora and the Cheliar, freshwater streams which flow into the Arabian Sea, Dr. Nair's face lit up with enthusiasm. These two rivers are totally free from pollution, he remarked, adding that they have the best inland fishing in the world.

He warned that if pollution hit these rivers, the export of Malabar clams, sardines, mackerel, all of which are fished off the Malabar coast, will be seriously threatened. Pollution of rivers is already a serious problem in India, according to the Indian ecologist who strongly emphasised the environmental preservation from the experience of industrialised nations.

Industrial development is of course part and parcel of development, but he pointed out that when new industries are established "you must have planning from the beginning to ensure that pollution problems are taken into consideration from the start." Planning must ensure that industrial waste is handled in a proper way, not just thrown into the air, the rivers and the sea.

He explained how the industrialised countries have been able to reduce pollution by controlling emission of dangerous waste material. In the United States, for example, six million tons of sulphur used to be thrown out annually into the air in the form of sulphur dioxide, a major dangerous pollutant. Today it has been reduced to less than one third that quantity, and in addition many useful products have been obtained by processing the waste.

Trees and forests are Dr. Nair's other major interest. He used to work at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, before he went to the University of Wisconsin to get his B. Sc. degree. "When you kill a tree you are losing one to two hundred years of productivity of the earth," he asserted, explaining that destruction of trees affects the wild life cycle because the presence of birds and bees is integrally linked with trees. Cross pollination is affected. Another consequence is soil erosion, which in turn may cause silting up of waterways and even floods.

The latest theory, he said, is that one third of the land area of a country should be under forest. Everywhere the increasing importance of forestry is being accepted. For the United Nations, Dr. Nair has visited 18 African countries interested in aforestation programmes. In many of them the emphasis is on tourism based on the theory that by keeping land under forest you can develop many tourist attractions. Preservation of wild life is one.

The chemical companies in the United States with which Dr. Nair is associated are conscious of the problem of pollution by chemicals, They realise that after doing its job the product used must break down, and not accumulate like DDT. They are working on special, "slow releasing" herbicides. The visiting expert explained the importance of these for aforestation programmes. The idea is that these chemicals should be applied in granular form through a granule with many layers. Each year one layer will open up, so there is no mass effect of the chemical residue.

In the United States, aforestation programmes have become increasingly important and trees are recognised as a vital asset in conservation of soil and water, and in the part they play in improving the quality of urban environment. The Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture employs research scientist in Forest Experiment Stations all over the country to work on improvement of the productivity of forest land and on development of trees which are more resistant to diseases, pests and environmental pollution.

Even school-children are involved in forest protection through a symbol known as "Smokey the Bear" with his slogan. Only *you* can prevent forest fires". Before 1945, the United States had more than 200,000 fires that destroyed more than 30 million acres of timberland. In 1945, an artist created a bear dressed in a forest ranger's hat and firefighter's dungarees as part of a nationwide cooperative fire prevention campaign of the U.S. Forest Service. Five years later, a bear cub, badly burned in a forest fire and nursed back to health by the daughter of a game warden, became the actual "Smokey". Estimates are that thanks to "Smokey" the number of forest fires has been reduced to about one-half and the burned over area to about 4 million acres.

Another major achievement of the United States is the "Green Earth" programme carried out by the Peabody Coal Company, the nation's largest coal producer which has applied this replanting and reforestation programme to its 35 surface mines all over the country. 'Strip mining' scrapes away top soils, removes minerals, and if the land is unreclaimed, "affects virtually all resource values: forests, lands, fish and wildlife, clean water, natural beauty."

Strip mining also poses problems in India as in fact do forest fires which ravage the hillsides in the dry weather annually.

These are facts which support Dr. Nair's contention that the United States and India share environmental problems. The Kerala-born ecologist would like to see an international environment conference held in New Delhi to focus attention on the special problems of the developing world, of the nations of Asia and Africa particularly, to discuss what they can do to save their environment before it is too late.

U. K. Tests Against Sea Pollution

LONDON: A series of exercises designed to test Britain's ability to cope with oil pollution around her coasts is being arranged. The first test will take place on March 23, off Pembrokeshire (South Wales).

Though details are not yet settled, a fleet of disposal ships co-operating with helicopter spotters will be used. No oil will be pumped into the sea—the operation will be a dummy run to check collaboration techniques and speed.

Mr. Michael Heseltine, Minister for Aerospace and Shipping, announced the series yesterday when he spoke at a naval architects' conference on maritime pollution.

He said a standing organisation with equipment to deal with oil spills of up to 30,000 tons would be too expensive to keep on permanent call. The real question was how to organise preparedness for the best results.

NORTH SEA RISKS

Four or five tests will be held this year and next. Some will test to the limit the ability to cope with incidents and will show up the strength of co-operation with other departments and local authorities.

Mr. Heseltine also referred to risks in the North Sea oilfields. "We must not overemphasise these, for the catastrophic blow-out is not very likely, but there is always the possibility of the rupture of a pipeline," he said.

Major calamities could not be eliminated, though the risk was small. Smaller accidents needed continuing vigilance. Mr. Heseltine said the North Sea agreement with Britain's continental colleagues would be valuable in providing assistance.

He added that this year would be an important one in the fight against marine pollution because of the international conference on marine pollution to be held in October. This conference would deal with substances other than oil which are harmful to the marine environment.

THE LO[illegible] E[illegible]RNAL

Prof. SHAMSUDDIN

EVEN today the ruins of Mandu echo with the singing voice of Rani Rupmati.

Born in a house of professional singers, she was passionately fond of music. And it was her melodious voice that attracted Baz Bahadur, the Sultan of Mandu, to Rupmati.

It was a late summer evening. Baz Bahadur, strolling in the jungles near the mountain range on other side of the big lake, heard faint strains of music flow towards him through the growth of thick vegetation.

He stood still. Music always had a hypnotising effect on him. Was it an instrument or a female voice, he wondered? Then, gradually, as the song took shape, it became clear to him that it was a song of worship, being sung by someone, perhaps a woman.

The voice was unusually high, clear and obviously trained. There was a sweet, melodious quality about it that denoted that the singer was still very young.

Before he realised what he was doing, Baz Bahadur was atop his mount, and galloping in the direction of the voice.

It was a young girl, who sat on the river bank, with her feet dangling in the water. She was gazing dreamily far beyond the mountains As softly as he could Baz Bahadur climbed down the horse and advanced towards her.

His moving feet made a sound on the dried leaves lying on the ground and the girl turned her head to see. Then, within the next moment, she was up on her feet, the anklets in her feet jingling. Their eyes met and she grew apprehensive.

"Who are you?" she asked, her voice was barely audible. Baz Bahadur though for a moment. He looked down at his apparel and then at his horse; it was very difficult to hide his identity. "I am Baz Bahadur," he said.

"The Sultan?" she asked. Her eyes grew wide in disbelief. Amused, Baz Bahadur nodded. She bent her head slightly, in the faintest suggestion of a bow.

"What brings you here my Lord?" she asked.

She was still keeping her distance, he noticed.

"Your song," he said, "will you sing it for me again?"

Rupmati smiled. "I can't sing that song again, it was a dedicated one to Mother Narbada."

"Another one, may be," he insisted.

Baz Bahadur stared at her as she sang. She was quite goodlooking., endowed with a feminine figure, eyes dark and luminous with laughter, and a firm, well-shaped lips which smiled at the slightest opportunity.

He listened entranced to her rendering of the Raga Bihag. She started on a low note, which was no more audible than the soft whisper of Narbada.

"My lock has become knotted, beloved,
Come and straighten it,
I have wet henna on my palms!"

Then, the voice soared up, slowly, effortlessly:

"The mark on my brow has also smudged, beloved,
Come and darken it with thine own hands,
I have wet henna on my palms".

For the tiniest part of a second, her voice quivered between two notes, touching the last note of the uppermost key, and then, smoothly, it sailed down to the beginning.

Baz Bahadur listened, entranced. He could not say when the song ended. To him, it seemed, it had gone on for ages, and still it ended too soon. When he opened his eyes, Rupmati was not there. He looked around, startled, and heard her giggle from behind the trees; then, the anklets jingled in her running feet.

He did not follow her. "She will come back," he said to himself.

It was a few months after their strange courtship started that Rupmati married Baz Bahadur. She readily agreed to his proposal, because she loved him, and also because he offered her a decent way of life by marrying her and letting her retain her own religion. Rupmati, though born in a family of prostitutes, could never bring herself to adopt her mother's way of life.

Many years passed. Years of long summer evenings spent beside the lake, or on the banks of the river, shouting each other's name with their faces towards the mountains, singing, laughing, and then gazing into each other's eyes for hours together, till the sun went down over yonder behind the mountain, and a milky moon came up in the azure blue skies of Mandu. Golden days, spent shooting in the deep jungles on the other side of the river.

History does not prove it, but according to a popular myth concerning Baz Bahadur and Rupmati, Adam Khan, the commander of the Mughal forces had a personal ambition to get Rupmati for himself. This, combined with the expansionist policies of the Emperor Akbar, resulted in an invasion of Mandu. Baz Bahadur fought back, but he lost to the mighty force that was the Mughal army.

He retreated. Many months passed, with Adam Khan's force lying outside the city of Mandu and the remaining few of Baz Bahadur's army, indulging in guerilla warfare against them.

It was a late afternoon. Rupmuti tossed in her bed, trying to get some sleep. After half an hour of vain effort, she got up, sprinkled some cold water on her face, and sat in her high alcove, looking out at the sunscorched landscape.

Suddenly, she could see a line of small figures appear on the mud-laden road. She strained her eyes to see, and as she realized that it was a group of galloping horses.

Inspite of the tension and anxiety she was going through, Rupmati's heart rose at the thought of Baz Bahadur returning home. She stared at the approaching horses, looking for the tall, erect figure, with the small clipped beard, that usually led his group of horsemen

Gradually, it dawned on her that the group did not include Baz Bahadur. With a beating heart, she remembered the proposal of Adam Khan for peace talks, and Baz Bahadur's inclination to respond. Had he gone? What had happened?

With her knees trembling beneath her, she ran down to the gate to meet the riders. She [illegible] approached. Slightly taken aback by this sudden appearance of Rupmati herself, the riders dismounted.

Rupmati opened her mouth to say something, but closed it again. Cold fright numbed her limbs. It was the old commander of the Mandu forces, who came forward.

"I bear gloomy tidings, Your Highness," he said in a voice that was not too steady. Rupmati felt a haze form itself around her. "No," she thought "please don't let it be true."

It was a minute after the words had been uttered that she caught their meaning. The old commander was saying, "We have been betrayed, my Lord, the Sultan has been captured by Adam Khan."

"He is alive?" she asked, her body trembling.

"Yes", the old man replied, "We left him alive, I don't think they will harm him. Not till..." He lowered his head. "Your Highness knows what is Adam Khan's demand!"

She turned abruptly, and almost ran to her own apartments. Tear streamed down Rupmati's eyes as she sat in her window, staring out at the pale, blue, faded autumn sky.

Baz Bahadur was a captor of the Mughals. and Adam Khan was asking for her as the ransom Should she go, and save him from the clutches of the invaders?

She thought of her own heredity, of the blood flowing in her veins. No one would be shocked. They would only say that Rupmati had gone back to her own way of life.

"No," she said aloud, "it's better to die."

It was a strangely calm pensive Rupmati, who swallowed the green liquid from the small bottle she had been keeping with herself for the last few days. Then, she stretched herself on the bed, pulling a sheet on her head.

It was thus, lying full length, that Adam Khan found her.

—AIR Raipur

Beml Designs New Epuipment

A crawler shovel equipment of 2.3 cubic meter capacity has been designed and developed in India for the first time by the Research and Development Division of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) at Kolar Gold Fields, in Mysore. The equipment is powered by a 180 horsepower diesel engine and is capable of five forward and four reverse speeds. The shovel operating machanism is actuated by hydraulic cylinders operating at a pressure of 2,000 Ib per sq. inch. The bucket can handle a payload of 4.6 tons. It has a fast cycle of loading and has sufficent reach and clearance to loads 25 and 35 ton dumpers, also manufactured by the BEML. The bucket has been manufactured from special steel to withstand very high abrasion.

The equipment will find extensive use in dam construction, road building and coal and mineral handling.

Laser For Eye Ills

Stanford, California—Researchers at Stanford University, under a grant from the U.S. National Institutes of Health, have invented a device for safely treating the eye with a laser beam. The process is called laser photo coagulation. It may be used to treat retinal detachments, destroy tumours, prevent the spread of disease and for other purposes.

The apparatus focuses the laser's intense energy on a carefully selected part of the eye, for eye tissue is destroyed by photo-coagulation. The equipment, which includes a slit lamp or binocular optical viewing instrument, keeps the beam in accurate focus and controls the spot size.

The machine is produced by Coherent Radiation Laborataries of Palo Alto, California.

THUS SPAKE

THE MAHATMA

There is no time-limit for a *'satyagrahi'* nor is there a limit to his capacity for suffering. Hence there is no such thing as defeat in *satyagraha*.

ASOKA SCENTED BETELNUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY Mar. 11, 1973.

DINDIGUL

The disarray at Dindigul guarantees sure success for the ruling D.M.K. party in the Parliamentary bye-election.

As things stand, a three-cornered contest seems inevitable. A few independents also may join the fray hoping to fish in troubled waters.

If the non-DMK parties want the bye-election to test the popularity or otherwise of the ruling party among the people, some sort of an electoral understanding is necessary. A straight fight will also offer an opportunity for DMK to prove its strength.

Bye-elections provide opportunities for the parties to go to the people and explain their stand on various problems. But they can never serve as vehicles to oust a popular Government.

A new ugly development in the state is the starting of some agitations on flimsy grounds. Recently a labour procession was demanding removal of power cut!

It is too much to expect a government to tackle these agitations and also concentrate on developmental activities.

Political parties must ensure peace for a year after the Dindigul election and test the capacity of the DMK to deliver the goods.

… nglish

By NITAI … OSWAMI

WHEN we take a cup of tea or coffee in the morning or give a piece of chocolate to a child, we wonder if we are told that the word 'tea' is taken from chinese, 'coffee' from Arabic and 'chocolate' from Maxico and none of these is English in origin at all.

Sometimes these coinages reveal the cultural superiority of the people from whose language borrowing has been made. Existence of words like 'zero' 'algebra' or 'zenith' in the English language speaks of the Arabic origin and their civilization in the fields of Mathematics and Astronomy wherefrom the words have been infiltrated into the English language and have attained permanence in the English vocabulary.

A British girl, innocent of language complexes, may be shocked to learn that in the piano, which she plays and 'solo' which she mutes both the words, 'piano' and 'solo' are Italian in origin related to the field of Italian music noted for its perfection and have been unconsciously transmitted to the English language since then. In Browning's poem like 'Andrea del Sarto' or 'Abt Vogler' which are related to Italian painting and music, we find many such words of Italian origin.

Words of commercial importance like 'bank' or 'balance' came from Italy to the English language and may appear surprising to a lecturer in commerce unfamiliar with the evolution of linguistic etymology.

Not only from Italy, Arab, China or Mexico but words entered English from Spain and Portugal too. One who is troubled by biting from 'mosquito', or a child, who is afraid of an 'alligator' will be pleased to know that the words. 'mosquito' and 'alligator' are Spanish in origin.

The custom officer, who likes to 'contraband' a smuggled bottle of 'sherry' does not perhaps know that the words' contraband' and 'sherry' are words incorporated into English from Spain. The words 'molasses' and 'banana, are the contributions of the Portuguese traders.

FRENCH AND LATIN WORDS

A large number of coinage have been made in the English language from the French language. Words like 'Government' or 'administration' which are otherwise known to be English French in origin. Words like 'state' parliament', 'tax' or 'revenue' have also been derived from French.

Not only the governmental or administrative words but also some words belonging to the church or ecclesiastical words have been brought into English from French. Thus the words 'religion' 'prayer' 'convent' 'saint', 'salvation' or 'immortality' have all come from French to modern English.

Some legal expressions like 'justice' or 'equity' and words belonging to army and navy like 'defence', 'soldier',—the very word 'navy' or 'spy' are French in origin. As a reciprocal intercourse of art, architecture, literature, medicine and the allied sciences between the English and the French, words like 'painting', 'music' or 'beauty' belonging to French art, 'palace' and 'mansion' to French architecture or 'story' 'tragedy' and 'title' to French literature came into English in enormous number.

A modern physician may not know that the very word 'physician' is of French origin while the word 'medicine' and some words associated with medical terminology like 'stomach' 'jaundice' or 'surgeon' are all french coinages into modern English.

Similarly Latin words have entered modern English in at least five periods. From the language point of view, these periods are known as: the Zero period, the First period, the Second, the Third and the Fourth periods.

With the change of time, these periods may vary but without trying to make a formal classification of these periods, a look into the following list of words will show us how tremendous the coinage from Latin to modern English is.

Thus the words 'custody' 'conspiracy, 'incredible' 'individual', 'moderate,' 'necessary' and a long list of such words of common use have come from Latin to modern English.

A student of history may feel, rather, 'nervous' if he is told that the 'script' which he is going to 'submit' before a man of 'genius for 'scrutiny' is not 'rational' because the poor student does not know that the words 'history' nervous, script, submit, genius, scrutiny and rational' are all taken into English from Latin in different periods.

Since no nation can live in complete isolation i. e. apart from all other nations fully disconnected and dissociated, coinage can never be avoided. In fact, it is a linguistic necessity because of universality and continuity of thought and race-experience that words are borrowed from one language to another.

Thus we get Scandinavian words like 'sky' or 'score' or Greek words like 'barometer' and 'magic' in English. From Dutch we get brandy' and wagon' while 'ruble' and 'vodka' are from Russian. Jasmine carries our imagination to the beautiful Persian Coast from where the word 'jasmine' entered English along with 'lemon'—thus enriching the English taste.

INDIAN CONTRIBUTION

The Indian contribution to the English language also deserves special attention. Expansion of the British Empire all over the Indian territory led to the borrowing of words of Indian origin in the language of the ruling class. Thus 'Brahman', 'cheroot', 'coolie', 'jungle', 'jute' 'pundits', 'verandah', 'rajah' and numerous such words have been taken from India for the enrichment of the English language. It it still in the process and is not yet complete.

The nineteenth century and the beginning and middle of the twentieth have largely contributed to new coinages in English. Sometimes old words are used, with new meanings attached to them.

MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC TERMS

Thus we hear medical terms like 'anaemia', 'diphtheria' or 'allergy' and the names of new drugs like 'anacin', 'aspirin' or 'insulin'. The science of electricity has given birth to words like 'dynamo' or 'alternating current'. Modern English owes to Physics for words like 'electron', 'relativity'. 'redioactive', or 'atomic energy'. From Chemistry the words 'radium' or 'benzine' are derived. The fields of pure and experimental Psychology have yielded words like 'apperception' or "psychoanalysis'. With the invention of radio, moving pictures and the growth of the automobiles, words like 'film'. 'reel' 'newsreel', 'radiogram', 'kilocycle', 'steering wheel' or 'shock absorber' have become very common.

The world wars and the subsequent development that took place gave wide currency to military expressions like 'tank' and 'anti-aircraft gun'.

With the rise of journalism words like 'newshawk' in the sense of a reporter or 'oust' in the sense of driving out a political opponent are often found.

PERSONS AND PLACES

Sometimes coinage has been made from the names of persons and places. Prosons relishing sandwich may not know that the word 'sandwich' owes its origin from the Earl of Sandwich, who once put some meat between some pieces of bread. When we boycott anything, do we even feel that 'boycott' is an Irish word derived from the name of Captain Boycott of Ireland, who refused to accept rent at the rates set up by the tenants? Many such proper names have passed into English as words of common use and have aroused attention of the students of language, while the ordinary persons are fully unaware of it.

Coinage has also been made by the combination of the initial

(Contd. on page 7)

Bangla

A new country of eighty million people putting the pieces together after a trying period of disturbances and displaced populations, Bangladesh faces serious health problems. Some, like malaria, malnutrition and cholera are old; others, like smallpox, have only recently flared up. However, the new Government of Bangladesh has decided upon an active programme to bring health care to all and WHO is helping.

When WHO first arrived in Bangladesh, it worked closely with the UN Relief Operation. On May 25th, 1971 when the new country was admitted as a full member of WHO, plans were made for a permanent relationship. Teams of experts, from both HQ in Geneva and SEARO in Delhi, assessed the situation and took first steps towards setting up a re-organized, vigorous health network.

OLD ENEMIES

The malaria eradication programme has progressed well and nearly 55 million people in the country should be either in the consolidation or maintenance phase by the end of 1973, leaving about 12 million or so in the attack phase. Nearly 15,000 cases have been reported this year, three quarters of which were imported in Bangladesh. This is the result of a hard-fought campaign carried out by a troop 6,000 strong; after "multipurpose" training they can perform other health tasks within the integrated health service of the country while keeping a vigilant eye on malaria Aside from other health work, they will record regularly each case of fever, taking blood smears, and giving anti-malaria tablets to every suspected malaria case. These blood smears are examined in a laboratory and those found positive are referred to the surveillance/vigilance units of the malaria eradication programme, who promptly carry out investigations and take action to prevent the resurgence of malaria and maintain the gains achieved in 1972.

Cholera has proved less of a problem than had been feared and there has been a dramatic fall in reported incidence during the last half of 1972 and so far this year. The impact of a large-scale tubewell programme should also keep water-borne disease rates down. But with almost half of the diseases in children related to impure water, much remains to be done. Only 34 towns and cities out of 68 in Bangladesh are provided with piped water supply; except at Dacca there is no sewerage system in any town.

Smallpox spread on a large scale with the return of millions who fled 10,000 cases were recorded in 1972 and full scale eradication programmes were begun everywhere in Bangladesh. There have been 2,745 cases in 1973 up to 27 January: however, steps have been taken to in rease two WHO regional staff and use integrated health workers to accelerate eradication. The goal is to stop the spread of the disease by the end of 1973.

SEQUELS OF HUNGER

Long-term problems remain. A recent nutrition survey of UNROD suggests that in some areas there is 50% increase of moderate to severe malnutrition with an estimate of 3 8 million children under 10 affected, especially in the southern and eastern portions of the country in the district of Chittagong.

One of the diseases associated with malnutrition, xerophthalmia—a condition due to Vitamin A deficiency— has been found to be a major cause of blindness. WHO and UNICEF with the co operation of the government, have an ambitious plan to use malaria eradication workers to distribute high-potency vitamin-A capsules to g owing children throughout the rural areas to prevent blindess—the first nation-wide programme of this kind in the world.

Pharmaceutical production in the country is operating below capacity, in some cases only up to 30% of plant capacity. Yet Bangladesh could eventually produce 85% of the medicine it needs. WHO is helping to formulate a policy for the production of medicines and their quality control. Bangladesh already produces 60 million doses of smallpox vaccine, enough to cover its own requirements. WHO and UNICEF have spent about $300,000 setting up a rehydration fluid plant in Dacca to help deal with cholera and diarrhoeal diseases. It is now producing 50,000 litres, and eventually should reach a production of 400,000 litres annually.

160,000 TUBEWELLS

The long-term answer to these diseases is good water and good sanitation; Government is aware of this. With assistance from UNICEF and WHO, one hundred thousand tubewells will be drilled this year and another 60,000 rebored. Furthermore, 1,200 deep bore wells will be sunk in the coastal areas where sweet water is at least 700/1000 feet deep This should go a long way in cutting down on discas : however, WHO stresses the need for a constant quality control of the water people drink.

The Ministry of Health with the support of the WHO/UNICEF/Cholera Research Laboratory and DPHE hopes to set up a programme for the regular monitoring of water, its field testing and the training of personnel. The objective should be the elimination of cholera endemicity in Bangladesh and to lessen such epidemics as infective hepatitis and other waterborne diseases.

The problem of the delivery of health services in Bangladesh is related to many factors: in the past, emphasis on promotion of the training of doctors rather than upon that of nurses and auxiliary workers, concentration of medical personnel in the cities and towns, the relative lack of personnel and services in the rural areas, where most of the population live, and the frequency of communicable diseases which are preventible and unnecessary. The Government has decided to rectify this and to emphasize a rural outreach programme on a crash basis.

TOO FEW NURSES

The most important problem is to bring some form of health care to the 64,000 villages where 85% of the peopie live. The Government wants to develop integrated rural health services by increasing the number of rural health centres from 150 to 356 and seeing to it that some simple form of care reaches everyone. At the moment there is an acute shortage of doctors, nurs s and other health personnel. There are about 8,000 physicians practising in Bangladesh, and almost 2/3 of them are confined to the cities in a country which is overwhelmingly rural. There are about 700 registered nurses. of whom 400 are in practice. In fact, physicians outnumber practising nurses by almost 20 to one. This situation will have to be remedied by stepping up tr ining of nurses and increasing enrolment as w ll as training a corp of auxiliary health workers and using staff already in the field on other projects.

Formerly, smallpox work rs looked only for smallpox: malaria workers sprayed houses and took blood smears of suspected cases; other health programmes did the same sort of specialis d work. But now the trend is to get the man going on foot to the villages to spend a few more minutes and do a much more important job. It doesn't take more than a few minutes, for example, to distribute Vitamin-A capsules to children—and this need be done only twice a year or to find out if anyone has had a persistent cough for more than a few weeks and see that he is checked for TB. Malaria, smallpox and TB can all be fought by these health foot-soldiers.

POPULATION PROBLEMS

Population figures speak for themselves. In 1942, the population of Bangladesh was 42 million. Today, it is about 80 million and is expected to reach 100 million by 1984. Yet the death and infant mortality rates are still too high.

It it now generally agreed that a population accepts family planning better when it understands that the objective is to give the children who are born a better chance to survive and to live properly. At the moment, the death rate of those under 5 is 260 per 1000 compared to 24 per 1000 in Europe.

Therefore, the integration of family planning into the general health services is imperative to achieve better family life, family health and family welfare.

There is a strong trend towards blending the family planning programmes with the programme for development of basic health services and the training and utilization of home visiting auxiliaries or aides at community level.

From page 6

or the first few letters of two or more words. Linguistically, these are known as 'acronyms'. Some acronyms are of so popular use that most people do not know what their real implication might be. Thus if one says, 'radio detecting and ranging', other persons may retort, "What does this devil say?" But if, instead, he utters the word 'radar' the other persons may heave a sigh of relief and may say, "Ah! now it becomes very clear."

Similarly, if one says, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation,' others may frown but if he says. 'UNESCO', they may exclaim, 'well said'.

—*Courtesy*: *AIR Agartala*

Delving Into The Earth Bowels

BAKU, (USSR): The work on drilling the world's deepest borehole started in Azerbaijan (a republic of the Soviet Transcacasus). The steel shaft will go 15 kilometres deep. The basic task of the experiment is to get a true picture of a cross-section of the Earth bowels. According to scientists, at a depth of 15 kilometres the temperature reaches 400-600 degrees and pressure—4,000 atmospheres.

Parallel with this investigators intend to check the layers of the Earth's crust, never explored before, for oil and gas content.

* * *

Siberia – Central Asia

ASHKHABAD, (USSR): The laying of another oil pipeline, stretching for 800 kilometres, is under way in the country's south. It will reach Chardzhou in Turkmenia (A Soviet Central Asian Republic). The oil refinery being built there will supply with petroleum products the vast areas of Central Asia. The new pipeline will start near the unique oil deposits in Western Siberia the development of which started several years back. The scientists believe that this oil-and gas-bearing area is the biggest on our planet. Today the output volume there draws closer to 100 million tons a year. In future it will increase not less than 5 times.

FUN AND LA

SCIENTIFIC

"Doctor," said the patient, "if there's anything the matter with me, don't frighten me to death by giving it a long scientific name, but just tell me what it is in plain English."

The doctor examined the man thoroughly, and then said: "Well, to be quite frank, there's nothing the matter with you. I should say you were just lazy!"

The patient looked rather discomfited and said: "Now give me the scientific name for it—the longest name you've got. I've got to report to my employer."

NOT SO BAD

The young man crawled into the august presence.

"I—I want to marry your daughter," he said.

"What?" The old man's face grew purple. "Marry my daughter? I am astonished! What on earth do you mean? You—"

"Now, now," soothed the youth, seeing defeat looming near and wanting to get some sort of satisfaction out of the interview, "don't talk like that. You're prejudiced against the girl. She's all right, really."

* * *

SATISFIED?

The old countryman and his wife were seated in the shoe shop of a small market town. The occasion was a pair of new shoes for the wife.

She tried on practically every shoe in the shop, and at last expressed her satisfaction. The weary assistant breathed a sigh of relief.

But the matter was not settled. There was still the old man to be satisfied. Addressing his wife, he queried: "Now are you quite sure you would like shoes for your birthday present or would you prefer an umbrella?"

* * *

Many a heated argument ends in warm friends passing each other with icy stares.

* * *

"What model is your car?"

"It isn't a model. It's a horrible example."

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BOMBAY

OUT OF HIS ELEMENT

A wealthy Irishman was proud of the opportunity to "show off" on the occasion of a visit to London of a compatriot. To dazzle him he invited him to dine at a fashionable restaurant.

"Now, me bhoy," he said, "just you follow my lead, and I'll order everything of the best."

Seated at table the host led off with—"Waiter, a couple of cocktails."

His friend gave himself away, however, when he whispered, audibly, "Waiter, if you don't mind, I'd rather have a wing."

A Good Match

A Scottish surgeon, man of few words, met his match—in a woman! She called at his surgery with her hand badly inflamed and swollen. The following dialogue, opened by the doctor, took place:

"Burn?"

"Bruise."

"Poultice."

The next day the woman called again, and the dialogue was as follows:

"Better?"

"Worse."

"More poultices."

Two days later the woman made another call.

"Better?"

"Well Fee?"

"Nothing. Most sensible woman ever I met."

CRUSHING

MacIntosh was having a dispute over the fare he owed a taxi-driver.

The man with the meter talked loud and harshly, and it angered the Highlander.

"Do you know who I am?" he demanded, proudly drawing himself up to his full height. "I'm a MacIntosh."

The taxi-driver snorted.

"I don't care if you're a brand-new umbrella," he said. "I'll have my rights."

* * *

CHILLY

The maid approached the head of the house.

"P-please, sir," she said shakily, "there's been a man at the door with a pitiful tale of woe, and—"

The master of the house waved her away.

"Can't help it, my girl," he snapped. "It's all tommy-rot, and it leaves me quite cold."

"Yes, sir," replied the maid. "I thought perhaps it would. I find he's taken your overcoat from the hall."

A DOUBT

The young subaltern joined a famous regiment, and the adjutant was giving him one or two instructions.

"You must grow a moustache," he barked.

"Yes, sir."

"And not one of these miserable five a-side affairs. A proper moustache."

"Yes, sir."

There was silence for a minute. Then the subaltern asked, meekly, "Any particular colour, sir?"

x x x

DONE TO A TURN

A new system of memory training was being taught in a village school, and teacher was becoming enthusiastic.

"For instance," he said, "supposing you want to remember the name of a poet—Bobby Burns. Fix in your mind's eye a picture of a policeman in flames. See—Bobby Burns?"

"Yes, I see" said a bright pupil. "But how is one to know it does not represent Robert Browning?"

* * *

COSTLY

"How much do you want for that big dog?" asked the prospective dog owner.

"Five pounds, sir," replied the dealer.

"How much for that small fellow over there, then?"

"Ten pounds."

"And for that very tiny one?"

"Fifteen pounds."

The customer looked puzzled.

"Then how much will it cost me if I don't buy a dog at all?" he asked.

x x x

ONLY A FIT!

Simson looked guilty as he glanced at the clock in the office:

"Sorry I'm a bit late," he said to the boss. "I fell asleep in my air raid shelter and when I woke up and saw the time I hurried off to town without breakfast."

"A bit late!" snapped his employer, aghast. "Where were you yesterday?"

* * *

WELCOME

An ambitious young man heard of the death of the junior partner of a big firm. Being full of self-confidence, he hurried to the offices of the firm, whose senior partner was a friend of his father's.

"How about my taking your partner's place?" he asked.

"Excellent!" said the senior partner. "If you can fix things with the undertaker."

...peciality

A Lanky individual approached the manager of a London freak museum and asked for a job.

"Who are you?" asked the manager.

"I'm Egbert, the Egg King."

"What's your speciality?"

"I eat three dozen hen eggs, two dozen duck eggs at a single sitting."

"Sounds all right. We've four shows a day."

"Fine."

"And do you think you can go through them with your act?"

"I know I can."

"On Saturdays we often have as many as six shows and on some holidays once an hour."

Egbert, the Egg King, hesitated. "In that case, I must have one thing understood. You've got to give me time enough to eat my regular meals!"

PUZZLING

Father took his small son to church. At one stage of the service the clergyman announced:

"We shall now sing hymn number two hundred and twenty-two. 'Ten thousand times ten thousand.' Two hundred and twenty-two."

The puzzled lad nudged his father.

"Dad," he whispered, "do we have to work this out?

* * *

OTHER WAY ROUND

"Has this man got an account here?" asked the caller at the bank in the wild and wooly West.

"Why, yes," said the manager.

"Then why did you return his cheque to me marked 'No funds'?"

"Oh" replied the manager, "that doesn't mean this man has no funds. It means the bank has no funds."

Wasted

The driving instructor was teaching the awkward pupil how to start a car.

"Put your right hand out to signal you're about to move off; put the car into gear with the left hand, then grip the handbrake. Ease up the clutch with the left foot and gently accelerate with the right, while releasing the hand-brake!" he explained.

There was a long pause, while the pupil appeared to think.

"Well, what are you waiting for?' asked the instructor.

"There's nothing useful I could do with my nose, is there?" asked the pupil.

WHA

IF you want "soup" at a restaurant you should no longer use the foreign word; you can ask for "soup" by using the newly coined Persian equivalent—"ashameh."

Whether or not the waiter at the restaurant would get what you want is problematic. But the Persian Academy, resuscitated three years ago after an eclipse of nearly 20 years, hopes that in a few years time it will succeed in replacing at least some loaned words with revived or coined Persian equivalents.

Instead of pavilion you should now say "kushk" while the word "khodro" might hopefully replace "automobile."

During the past 27 months of its new active existence the Persian Academy, according to Secretary-General Sadeq Kia, has put into circulation 6,650 new or revived Persian words. In most cases the words launched are substitutes for loaned foreign words.

The persian language as it has developed during the past 14 centuries can boast of a vitality that is, perhaps, unique in the world. It withstood the onslaught of Arabic 14 centuries ago and later came to dominate a large number of central Asian languages or Iranic sub-languages that emerged in various parts on the Iranian Plateau.

THE HOLY LANGUAGE

Soon after the conversion of the majority of Iranians into the Islamic faith, there were many who feared Persian might gradually dissappear giving its place to Arabic which, after all, was the holy language of Islam.

But this was not to take place. A number of poets emerged in the eastern parts of the plateau, modern Afghanistan, and revived Pers... the main literary language of the Iranic peoples. Their task was not difficult since Persian had remained the vernacular throughout the land

Poets such as Soghdi, Daqiqi, Rudaki, Bosti and Marvzi had already paved the way for the revival of Persian when Ferdowsi launched his g eat epic "The Shahnameh" (The Book of Kings.)

Most Iranian scholars now agree that with the Shahnameh-completed there is no longer any danger of Persian becoming a dead language. Their belief is borne out by the history of the past 1,000 years.

The Shahnameh has remained the most popular book of Persian poetry; its language, while a masterpiece of Persian classics, remains accessible to everyone, educated or not.

Later, poets such as Hafez, Mowlavi, Nasser Khosrow, Saadi and Nezami turned Persian into one of the two or three leading literary languages of the world.

While Iran was being Islamicised a number of loaned words from Arabic entered Persian. This was inevitable since the Iranians took a leading part in developing Islamic philosophy as well as running the Muslim empire.

Still later, Persian became the backbone of Iranian nationalism—without it Iran might have become Arabised just as Egypt, also an ancient country, gradually developed an Arab identity.

A number of Persian writers made heavy use of loaned Arabic words—a decision that had curious repercussions since Persian is an Indo European language while Arabic belongs to the Semitic group.

Between the 17th and 19th centuries religious revivalism ...made the use of large numbers of loaned Arabic words popular once again. Books were written with up to 90 per cent of the words in Arabic. As a result the mass of the people could have no access to works of literary creation.

But this was a passing period and in a way reflected Iran's general political and cultural decline With the advent of the 20th century the purification of the Persian language became an article of fate for Iranian nationalists. The controversial writer and thinker, Ahmad Kasravi, was able to write books which made almost no use of loaned words.

The Persian Academy was created by Reza Shah the Great as part of his vast plans for modernising Iran and reasserting its national identity. The academy's life was short and it was sent into oblivion with the invasion of Iran by the Allies during World War II. But with in its brief lifespan the academy succeeded in putting into circulation many thousands of new or revived words that replaced foreign words or provided Persian equivalents for new scientific terms borrowed from French.

The academy's campaign was remarkably successful and over 90 per cent of the new words it launched have now become part of the day-to-day vocabulary of all Iranians.

Persian equivalents fo "university," "aircraft," "airport," "railways," "botany," "geology," "zoology," "medidine" and many other loaned words are now firmly established.

ACADEMY REVIVED

It was with this success in mind that the Shahanshah decided to revive the academy nearly three years ago. The new academy began active work just over two years ago.

...ianised Arabic, Turkish, French or Russian words from Persian. Rather, it has concentrated its efforts on finding and popularising Persian words needed for expressing new ideas or describing new machines and methods.

The academy's efforts coincide with a tacit agreement by most contemporary poets, writers and journalists to keep out loaned words as much as possible. Writers and scholars have often invented new words they needed for treating new concepts or processes.

The trouble, however, was that because these scholars have had no direct contact with each other they often invented several Persian words as the equivalent of a single foreign term. This, naturally, led to much confusion. For example, a student of economics would find three or four Persian terms used in different books as the equivalent of "capital formation."

The academy now hopes to serve as the supreme arbiter in each case.

The capacity of Persian for coining new words is almost limitless. Almost any literate Persian can invent almost as many words as he likes using already existing stems or working out new combinations.

But to be successful the academy must not work within its own limited circle. It ought to have direct contact not only with the language of the mass, but also with the many thousands of people who are turning out billions of words each year writing on an increasingly large number of subjects, themes and aspects of life.

One or two newspapers have decided to apply the academy's decisions fully and faithfully. Others are hesitant. The universities have not yet been won over; some are even arrogantly disdainful of the academy's work while others try to duplicate it

One solution would be to massively increase the number of the academy's associate and correspondent members. This would enable the academy to coopt a larger number of writers and scholars thus making the task of popularising new or revived words easier.

Concession To Martyrs Children

The children of officers and jawans killed in action during the last Indo-Pak war have been allowed many concessions. Two members of every family of those killed in action can be appointed without registration at the Employment Exchanges to Class III and Class IV posts filled by direct recruitment.

Preference is given to children of those killed in action in admission to various institutions. Some medical institutions in the country have reserved a quota for them. The Central Government has provided free education including the cost of books, uniform and board and lodging in recognised schools upto the first degree level for children of servicemen killed in action or the children of those permanently disabled during the 1971 operations. Different State Governments have also issued similar orders.

Vikrant Completes Twelve Years Of Service

The aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, has completed 12 years of distinguished service with the Navy. Its performance in the 1971 War, when it joined battle for the first time was the most historic event in its service with the Indian Navy. It contributed in good measure to the liberation of Bangla Desh. Its aircraft carried out round-the-clock attacks on enemy military targets. For her daring, the Vikrant won two Maha Vir Chakras, 11 Vir Chakras, 13 Nao Sena Medals and 11 mention-in-despatches.

The 12th anniversary celebrations of the commissioning of the Vikrant was a happy occasion for her officers and sailors who were joined on board the ship by their families. After a march past on the flight deck, officers and sailors shouted three Jais to Vikrant.

INS Vikrant was commissioned in early 1961 and joined the Indian Fleet on December 3, 1961. The ship has a displacement of about 20,000 tons and a length of about 233 metres. Its armament includes anti-aircraft guns. Its aircraft complement comprises Seahawk jet fighters, Breguet Alize reconnaissance and antisubmarine aircraft and Alouette sea-air rescue helicopters. The carrier has an angled deck and is equipped with a steam catapult, mirror landing aids and two electrically operated aircraft lifts.

Successful Re-Enactment

Fighty years ago Conan Doyle wrote a story entitled 'The Red Headed League" about thieves who dug a tunnel into a bank from the neighbouring house only to fall into the arms of Sheriock Holmes as they came up through the floor. In August 1971 real thieves reenacted this with Lloyds Bank in the famous Baker Street. They also dug a tunnel and came up through the floor of the safe deposit vault, from which they took a haul of £1.5 million in cash and jewellery. Unlike Holmes. however, the London police were not there to prevent the robbery, and it was only a year and a half later that the thieves were caught.

V.V.S. Aiyar

one hand the Universities of ancient Madurai and Kanchi, Takshasila and Nalanda, and on the other the Universities of Manchester and Columbia and Charlottenburg. Every city or group of people who can guarantee a monthly donation of Rs. 15 can have the right of sending one boy for education at the Gurukula. May I hope that all our countrymen will see the necessity of helping this Tamil Gurukula in every way that they can, so that the Gurukula might solve the most insistent problem of our times, namely the all-round education of our children."

In view of the agitation that took place later on dubbing Aiyar as one "partial" to Brahmins and cunningly hostile to Non-Brahmins, it would be worthwhile to note here that in his plea before Seshagiri Aiyar he had advanced the idea of a common school for both Brahmins and Non-Brahmins, whereas Seshagiri Aiyar had originally concerned himself only with the problem of craft education for Brahmin boys.

* * *

December 1924 saw V. V. S. Aiyar going to Belgaum to attend the Congress session there presided over by Mahatma Gandhi. A series of Hindu-Muslim riots had marred the sweet co-operation between the main communities during the Khilafat days, and Gandhiji had undertaken a 21-day fast to bring about Hindu-Muslim unity. The whole nation was anxiously hoping he would come through, which he did. But before he could devote himself to furthering the cause of Hindu-Muslim unity, the Government let loose a campaign against the Congress aimed mainly the Swarajists, the section of Congressmen who believed in entering legislative councils to carry the fight against the Britisher in those public forums; the Government first struck in Bengal, where the Governor himself led the campaign by dubbing C. R. Das and his followers (Swarajists all) as enemies of the country. Indiscriminate arrests followed. A great wave of anger and protest swept the country. Gandhiji, C. R. Das and Motilal Nehru decided to recommend to the forthcoming Congress session in Belgaum the suspension of the Non-co-operation programme, which had been in force for the last few years, and the grant of permission for the Swarajists to contest elections and enter legislative councils on behalf of the Congress. The Gandhi-Das Nehru pact was ratified at Belgaum.

Aiyar attended the Belgaum Congress, as he had more than one reason to do so. One of them was possibly a desire to see the Mahatma again. Another was to go from Belgaum to Ratnagiri, where his former India House leader of London days, Savarkar, was interned and transpo... last been removed from An... mans and brought to India, where, instead of releasing him as was being demanded, the Government interned him in Ratnagiri District.

The transfer of Savarkar to India came about in this manner. In March 1921 the Hon. K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar, Member of the Council of State, moved a resolution in the House that the Savarkar brother be released. Both of then were in the Andamans, on sentences awarded for sedition. But Rangaswami Aiyangar's plea was of no avail. When the Government was not easily moved, Rangaswami Aiyangar said he was ready to stand security for Savarkar to assure Government of his good intention and honest motives. The Government then relented and orders were issued for bringing the Savarkar brothers to India from the Andamans. It was thought the Gavernment were at last releasing the Savarkars. But it was not to be.

The brothers on their arrival in Indian soil in Bengal were taken to the Alipore Jail. At Alipore the brothers were separated, and Babarao (Ganeshpant Savarkar), the elder, was taken to Bijapur Jail, from where he was ultimately released after a serious illness in 1922. Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, the younger brother and hero of India House was taken to Rataagiri Jail in the Bombay Presidency, passing through Bombay. All that the Government had done was to transfer the Savarkars from a jail in the Andamans to one on the mainland!

Shortly afterwards, Savarkar was transferred from Ratnagiri Jail to Yerravada Jail. His continued incarceration agitated the public mind, and the Ratnagiri District Political Conference in 1923 passed a resolution urging unconditional release of Savarkar. A Savarkar Release Committee was formed in Bombay and a public meeting was held under the presidentship of Vithalbhai Patel. In December 1923, the Cocanada session of the Congress passed a resolution sponsored by the chair, demanding the release of Savarkar. This moved the Government, and the Governor of Bombay, Sir George Lloyd, visited Savarkar in jail and discussed conditions for his release. The terms finally accepted were that Savarkar shall reside in the Ratnagiri District and shall not go beyond its borders without Government permission, and that he shall not engage publicly or privately in any manner of political activity without Government consent for a period of five years.

The "release" of Savarkar was hailed with great satisfaction all over India. Ratnagiri is a coastal town about a hundred and twentyfive miles south of Bombay. Savarkar passed through Poona to Ratnagiri, meeting some of his old friends in Poona.

Belgaum, where the Congress ...

After the ...gress session, however, Aiyar and a young friend of his, T. Sadasivam, went to Goa, then still a Portuguese outpost. It was purely a sight-seeing trip. T. Sadasivam (who is now the Editor and publisher of the Tamil weekly "Kalki" and publisher of "Swarajya" English weekly) has recalled his days with Aiyar on this trip. Says Sadasivam, in his reminiscences published in the "Swarajya-Tamil Daily" of 1925: "I am one of those who had the good fortune to move closely with this great man. I saw him first after his return from exile in Pondicherry, when he came back to his native Tiruchi. But it was only after the Belgaum Congress that I had the occasion to know him intimately, when after the Congress the two of us went to Marmagoa, Panjim, Ratnagiri and Bombay. Every second with him was a joyful experience. That great man was always full of deep and soul-satisfying thoughts. All the time his talk would be of patriotism and of the Tamil language. I haven't seen another person so deeply attached to the Poet Kamban. I must say he (Aiyar) too was a poet. In the case of Poet Subramania Bharati, the poetical feeling could not be contained inside his heart; it burst out ebulliently. But with Aiyar, his poetical feeling was innate, well contained inside. It was because of this that he was able to deeply appreciate the nuances of good poetry and enjoy them intensely. Aiyar was one who was immensely moved to ecstasy by the rising sun at the horizon, the luminour moon, the sparkling stars, the vast firmament, the extensive seas, the grand mountains, the dense forests, the rushing flood waters of rivers, and the roaring might of waterfalls. When we were in Panjim beach, on an early evening, two souls treading the sands and taking air deeply engrossed in conversation, Aiyar suddenly said, 'Sadasivam, our people do not look at the skies at all; now look at the stars.' Then he began to identify for me the various constellations telling me, "That is Aswini; this is Bharani; etc....' After this we went to the famous Christian shrine in the older part of Goa"

T. Sadasivam then goes on to narrate how they met Savarkar at Ratnagiri. Says he: "On the 2nd of January (1925), Friday, we went to see the true patriot and glorious hero Vinayak Damodar Savarkar at his residence (place of internment) near Ratnagiri. The two great men were meeting after fifteen long years. They greeted one another by a cordial hug like the rishis of yore. To see the two together was itself a sight for the Gods. We were with Savarkar the whole of the day and took leave in the evening. Savarkar escorted us out for some distance. By this time, the Police too had come trailing us. Savar-... ...pecia' 'Is not our ...proof! meaning A L... was no wonder that Aiyar had come giving the slip to the police. When they were finally parting, Savarkar turned to Aiyar with an entrancing smile and said, After how many more years are we to meet again?' Aiyar quickly replied, 'No, no. We shall meet often.'

"Then they hugged one another once again. What a tragedy, neither of them knew at the moment that this was to be their last hug of endearing friendship.

"We then went to Bombay, and spent some days with Ganesh Damodar Savarkar (Babarao), the elder brother, who was no whit less a shining star of patriotism than Vinayak Savarkar.

"In Bombay, at Ganesh Savarkar's house, Aiyar and myself parted company. Later, on February 27, we met for two hours at Madurai and had a long chat That was our own last meeting."

Apart from Sadasivam, Vinayak Savarkar too has (at the time of Aiyar's death in June 1925) recalled their fond reunion in Ratnagiri. Narrating his first meeting with Aiyar at India House and Aiyar's visit to Brixton Jail to see Savarkar there, Savardar said that one of two fates overhang him—the Andamans or the hangman's noose In either case, he thought he would not be able to meet his dear friends again. But the unbelievable really took place, after fifteen long years. After crossing many dangerous and torturesome paths on the fringe of death, I met him (says Savarkar) a few months ago. For the sake of our spending a few hours together, he had come all the way from Madras. We forgot all the old miseries and like school boys attending school after a long vacation spent some time in light-hearted chatter. Then he took leave of me. I was looking out until he disappeared from my view, and told myself, 'Now I can call him any time I like.' Alas! When we thought we would never meet, we met again; but when I was sure I could see him any time, it has become completely out of the realms of possibility. This is the work of destiny. Possibly it is Destiny's whim to note men's thoughts and scoff at them!

Yes, Destiny was to take a surprising turn in Aiyar's tormented life in the year 1925. Assailed on all sides by friend and foe alike, but sticking to what he considered was an ideal stand, Aiyar was to meet an unexpected end in June 1925. To save a daughter who had fallen into a roaring gorge in a waterfall, Aiyar—as no one else would have done—leaped into the foaming waters, to rescue only the dead body of his daughter and to sink, perhaps with no further interest in life, once again into the engulfing torrent.

(Next week: Storm In A Teacup)

THE W… …AMENT

THE Finance Minister brought a ray of cheer to the Lok Sabha when he confidently announced that a record wheat harvest was expected this rabi season. If there is a God, the Finance Minister said, he would be kind to us, and then added, more like a Finance Minister, if you go by the weather cycle, 1973–74 will indeed be one of the best years for our farmers.

With the general budget for 1973–74 barely a week old, Shri Chavan expressed confidence about the good trends visible in the economy. He was not pessimistic about controlling the price situation. The discussion on the motion of rising prices had been sponsored by Shri Jyotrimoy Basu and Shri Samar Guha.

The Finance Minister conceded that the rise in prices was a national problem calling for a national solution. He criticised the Opposition for trying to make it a party issue and went on to outline a three-pronged strategy to meet the challenge. This was effective management of total demand for essentials, rise in farm and industrial production and the management of a distribution system. Answering the Opposition's criticism about the rise in money supply, Shri Chavan pointed out that deficit financing had been kept down to the minimum for the year ahead.

PROCUREMENT

The members also received an assurance from the Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri A P. Shinde, that Government would considerably tighten up the food take-over measures in the next two or three years when not only the marketed surplus as at present but also the marketable surplus would be mopped up to give the public sector commanding heights in the food economy.

Replying to a six-hour discussion on the takeover of the wholesale trade from the coming rabi season, Shri Shinde held out the hope that within two to three years it would be possible for public agencies to procure 18 to 20 million tonnes of marketable surplus. This, he said, would enable the Government to cover the vulnerable sections in urban and other areas totalling over 20 crores under the public distribution system

He elaborated the takeover scheme, which was announced in Parliament some time ago. Maximum prices would be fixed for retailers who would be licensed. The takeover decision was related to a programme of building a sizeable buffer stock—higher than the level of 7 million tonnes in the past. The Government was determined to bring about a basic structural change in the food economy and pursue the takeover policy in the interest of consumers and producers.

NON-OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

A significant achievement of the Lok Sabha was the adoption of a non-official resolution recommending that the Government bring forward "expeditiously comprehensive legislation on land ceilings and take suitable steps for speedy and effective implementation of the legislation so that the surplus land can be distributed promptly among the landless agricultural workers and other needy agriculturists".

The original resolution tabled by the C.P.M. leader, Shri A.K. Gopalan was differently drafted and prescribed the time limit of January 26, 1973, for enactment of effective land reforms. The resolution also abolished all exemptions. The amendment moved by some Congress members, including Shri Hari Kishore Singh, Shri Chintamani Panigrahi and Shri R. S. Pande prescribes no deadline and urges that the land ceiling legislation should be drawn on the basis of the conclusions of the Chief Ministers' Conference of July 1972. It also does not refer to abolition of exemptions.

ORISSA

As was expected, President's Rule in Orissa and the dissolution of the State Assembly figured in both Houses of Parliament. While the discussion in the Rajya Sabha ended in a walk-out by various Opposition groups, barring the C.P.I., the scene in the Lok Sabha was diffe ent. This was because the Opposition could not muster the requisite number to support their demand for an adjournment motion.

Forty-one members rose in their seats when the Speaker asked whether the motion of the Swatantra member, Shri Piloo Mody, for censure of the Government on account of what he described as the Orissa Governor's unconstitutional action had the l ave of the House. The rules require at least 50 members to support an adjournment motion

* * *

SECURITY LAPSE

Members in the Rajya Shbha expressed concern about the incident in which three ticketless passengers boarded an Air India flight from Bombay to London. They described it as a serious lapse in security. Their feelings were partly assuaged when the Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Dr. Karan Singh, stated in the House that 15 airport officials had been suspended, pending an inquiry into the incident. He assured the members that security and precautionary measures had been tightened and the procedures for boarding aircraft made more stringent.

DAMAGING TRAILERS

The recent attempt to damage public property especially trains and rolling stock has compelled the Government to bring forward amendments in the Indian Railways Act seeking the death penalty for wilful wrecking of trains and up to 10 years imprisonment for destruction of railway property,

The Statement of Objects of the Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Deputy Minister for Railways, Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi, says that experience had shown that the present penal provisions relating to carrying inflammable articles in trains, unjustified pulling of the abarm chain, entraining or detraining in unauthorised places, unauthorised hawking, trespass and tampering with the railway track and wiful wrecking of trains, are not sufficient deterrent. Considering that the incidence of such offences on the railways has been increasing and causing serious concern, the relevant penal provisions are sought to be made more stringent.

DEATH PENALITY

In the case of wrecking of trains, it is proposed to provide for imposition of the death penalty where deaths have occurred as a result of the w ecking of a train or where the person committing the act knows that it will be so imminently dangerous that it would, in all probablility, cause death or such bodily injury as is likely to result in death.

As it is, there is in the Indian Railways Act no provision to cover cases of destruction of railway property except if it endangers, or is likely to endanger, the safety of any person travelling or being upon the railway.

At present unauthorised alarm chain pulling can be punished with imprisonment up to three months or fine which may extend to Rs. 350.

The amending bill, provides for a compulsory punishment of at least one month's imprisonment for a second offence.

For Pure Air

ALMA ATA, (USSR), Mills and factories of Alma Ata, the capital of Kazakhastan, a republic in the south-east of the USSR, have been switched-over to smokeless fuel—gas. Some 200 small boiler-houses which polluted the air have been eliminated. State control over the toxicity of the motor vehicles' exhaust gases was introduced. The green zone is extending. Today there are 80 square metres of greenery per resident of Alma Ata.

* * *

Dam in a Second

ALMA ATA, (USSR): It will take one second to fill the 300-metre dam on the mountain Naryn River in Central Asia. This work will be done with the help of an explosion. The new dam will become the backbone of one of the hydro power stations being built on the Naryn. It will be concreted and the combination of rock and building material will add special strength to the construction.

The new method is already widely used in the construction of hydro technical installations in the Soviet Central Asian Republics. It was used, for instance, during the construction of the Nurek Hydro power station —the biggest in Central Asia—and during the construction of the anti mudflow dam in the vicinity of Alma Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan (the republic in the South-East of the USSR).

Where Do Meteorites Fall From ?

ALMA-ATA, (USSR): The astrophysicists of the Academy of S iences of Kazakhstan, a republic in the south-east of the USSR, have established the location and movement of many centres of meteorite formation in the solar system. It has been discovered, for instance, that most meteorite bodies originate from asteroids gravitating to Mars. The discovery will make it possible to specify the safest routes for interplanetary flights.

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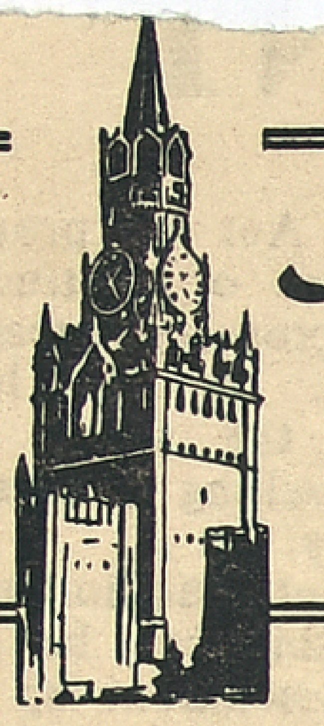


Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET–INDIAN TRADE

MISS. Kamala, a student from Madras, studying in the Patrice Lumumba Friendship University was in high spirits when I called on her to get clarification about some doubts on certain Indian customs and manners. I thought that she should have received some good news from her mother or sister but it turned out that it was the morning's newspaper that brought her the good news.

It was a report by a TASS Correspondent about the increasing trade relations between the USSR and India. Kamala is a well informed girl with a wider perspective and it was perfectly natural for her to be happy about this international relationship as if it were her own personal gain.

The report, incidentally, said that the volume of trade between the Soviet Union and India in 1972 exceeded Rs. 3,700 million. This year it is expected to reach the all time high of Rs. 4,100 million. So, the Soviet Union will become one of India's biggest trading partners while India will be one of the most important trading partners of the USSR among the developing countries.

India buys from the Soviet Union different kinds of industrial equipment which is important for fulfilling the country's plans of economic development and for increasing the industrial and agricultural output. It is able to cover its expenditure by selling to the Soviet Union its staple exports and other products. This is of great importance for India since it promotes the further growth of the branches of economy producing export goods and enables it to save gold and foreign curtency that are so greatly needed for the country's economy.

The Soviet Union increases its purchases of a number important kinds of industrial raw materials, footwear, jute products and woolen knit–wear and other staple exports such as tea, coffee, spices, nuts, tobacco etc. As India's heavy industry develops, the Soviet Union started buying from India machine–tools, instruments and other industrial goods. The share of non-traditional Indian exports bought by the Soviet Union increased from 13 per cent in 1956 to 50 per cent now.

* * *

EXCHANGE OF PARTY MEMBERSHIP CARDS

A nation–wide exchange of party membership cards was started in the Soviet Union on the 1st of March 1973, and it will go on throughout 1973 and 1974.

It started with the first new card, bearing No 1. being filled ... and leader of the ...

Lenin's party membership card was signed by Mr. L. I. Barezhnov General Secretary, Central Cummittee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

From now on, members of the CPSU will receive party membership cards bearing Lenin's Portrait and his words: "The party is the wisdom, honour and conscience of this epoch."

The party card bearing the name of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin has been handed over to the Institute of Marxism–Leninism of the CPSU Central Committee.

The decision on the exchange of Party documents was adopted by the 24th CPSU Congress in 1971.

Party documents in the Soviet Union are exchanged on a strictly individual basis after an interview with each member of the Party.

The membership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is now about 1.5 crares and the last exchange of Party documents was about 20 years ago i.e. in 1954.

* * *

U.S.—CHINA TALKS

Western critics who were eager to spin of spicy news by giving an "anti–Soviet colour" to the recent talks between the United States and the People's Republic of China should have been disappointed at the Soviet reaction to their stories.

Leonid Zamyatin a noted Soviet political commentater has stated in an article in the Sovetskaya Rossia that the normalisation of relations between states that had no such relations is quite a normal process. "Viewed from this angle, there is nothing unusual in the recent trip of the special US Presidential Adviser Henry Kissinger to Peking" he ...oted Henry ... had confirmed that ... were in the spirit of the Shanghai Communique signed by Nixon and Chou En–lai, that it was decided to speed up the process of normalisation of the United States—Chinese relations and to widen the contacts in various fields. He had also stated that the normalisation of relaiions between the United States and China will never be directed against any third country.

"The Soviet leaders clearly and definitely stated that Soviet Union makes neither territorial nor economic claims on the People's Republic of China. The USSR wishes China to be a prosperous socialist country and would like to fight jointly with the PRC for paace against war" Samyatin stresses.

"If Peking is worried about the alleged 'Soviet menace', then wouldn't it be better, instead of using the services of anti–Soviet vilifiers, to agree to the proposals advanced by the Soviet Union many times: the proposals to assure clear-cut committments that would proclude an attack of one country on the other. For, it is the Chinese side that is to give an answer to this question" concludes Mr. Zamyatin.

* * *

A 'DACHA' WHILE YOU WAIT

"How about a weekend at my Dacha (country cottage)?" asked the voice on the phone.

It was a pal of mine who works at the Likhachov Motor Works.

"You haven't got one!" I said, "I don't mind a weekend in the country."

So we took a train about 30 miles out, walked a bit, and then my friend pointed to some pegs in the ground and said: "There she is!"

Shortly afterwards two lorries rolled up. Four chaps unloaded a lot of panels and fittings, and set to work assembling them.

This was on Saturday morning. By Sunday evening the place was finished.

Getting a dacha built was once quite a business. Prefabrication has made it much easier.

The Ministry of Timber and Woodworking has a number of factories, and you simply go through their catalogue or showrooms and pick what you want.

My friend's situation, according to the documents handed over with the keys, was: "House, wood, standard bungalow type with loft."

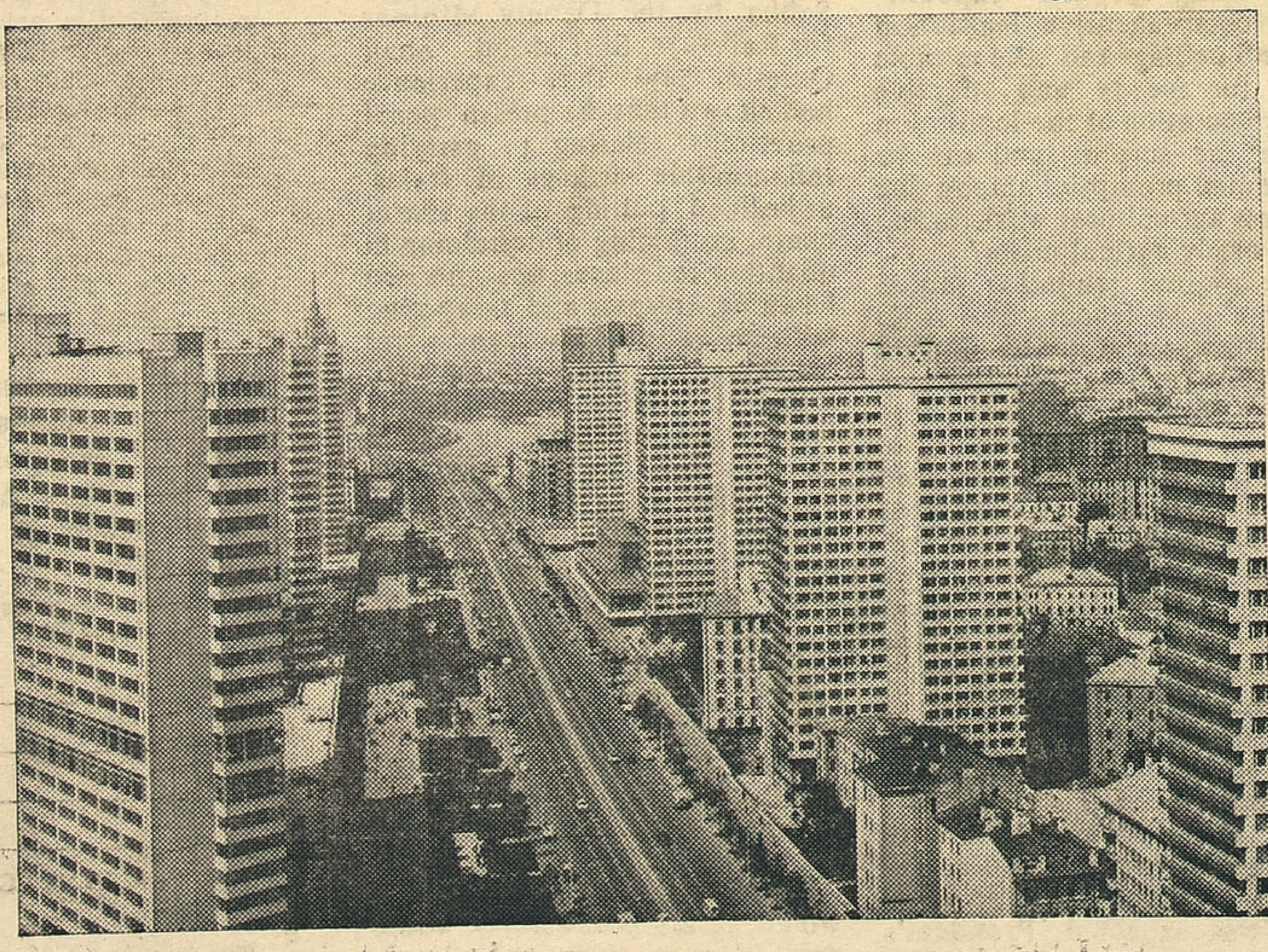
You can get them any size, any shape or finish.

In his, the kitchen walls are done in white plastic that looks like tiles. There is a bottled gas cooker, a larder, shelves, cupboard and a niche for the fridge.

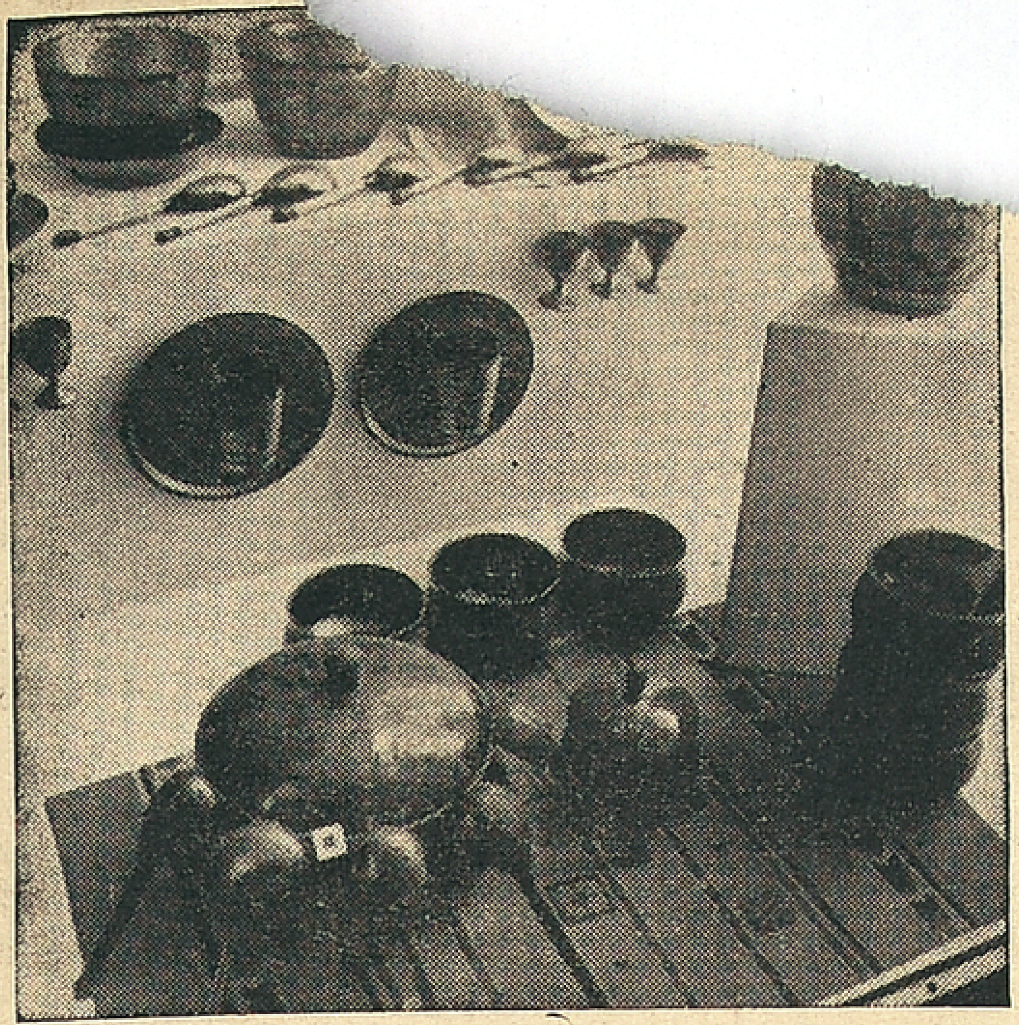
Some prefab dachas have a boiler for heating, but this one is near a village, so is "plugged in" to the local district heating system.

My friend got the ground (free) from his factory, which gets it from the local authority.

It's quite a sizeable plot, too, and will provide a really attractive garden.



The Soviet Union has perfected the art and technique of building and the Kalimin Avenue is an example.



Wooden bowls and spoons Khokhloma design.

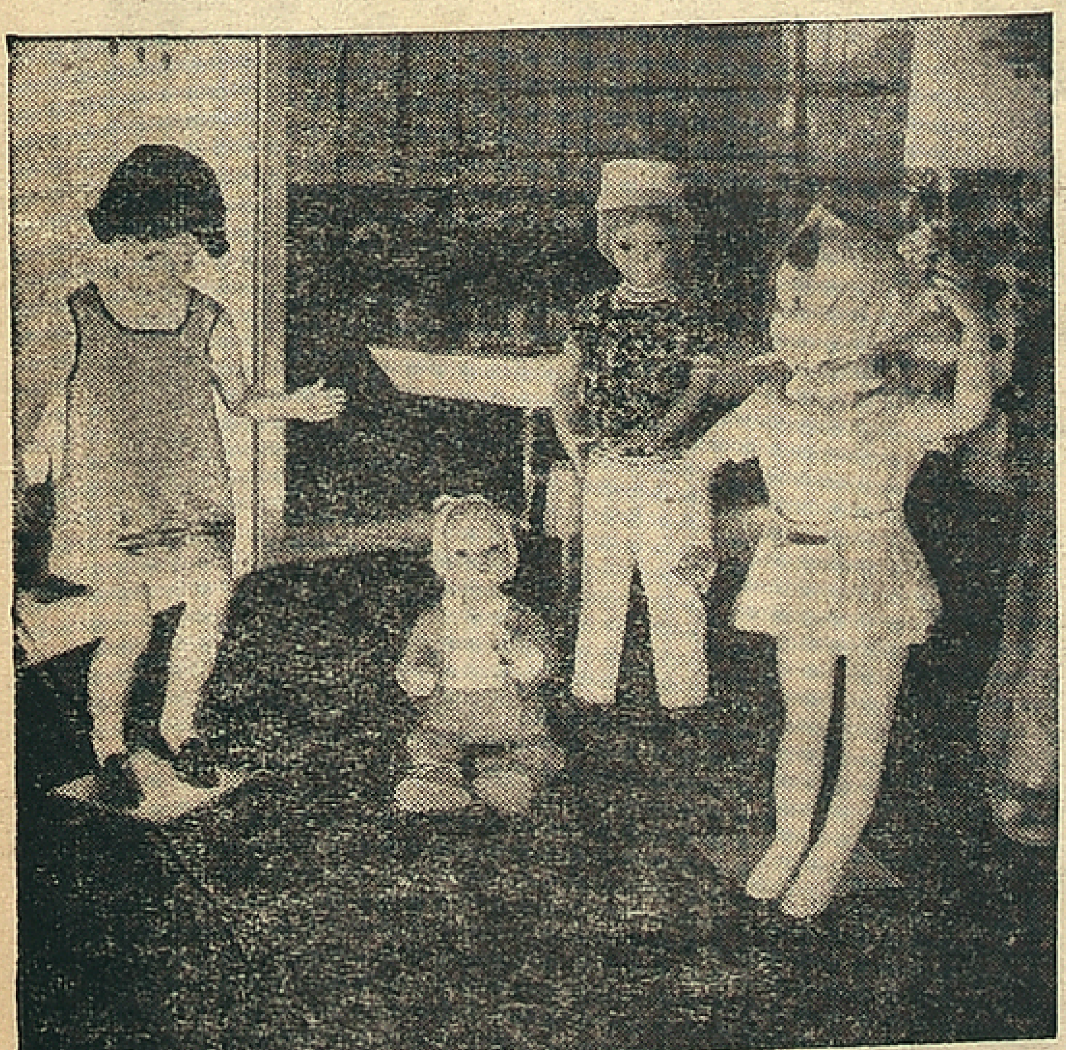
From Second Cover

larger quantities of fabrics, knitted wear and footwear.

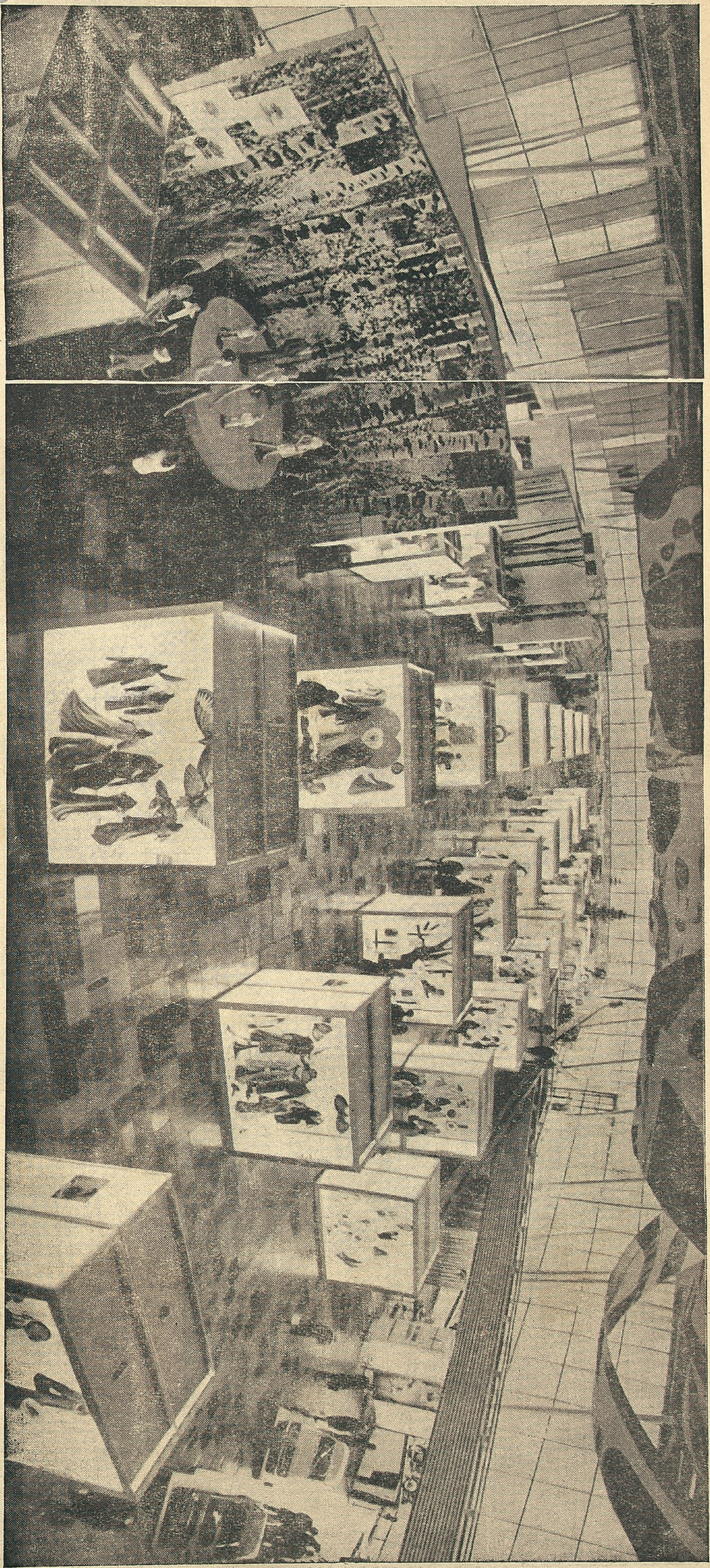
Soviet scientists and designers have developed several new types of machinery for the technical renovation of the light industry. Among these are automatic looms, knitting machines etc. The factories producing cotton fabrics, woollen and knitted wear are being equipped with integrated transfer lines, continuous flow sheets of finishing fabrics and knitted wool. These measures will raise labour productivity by 34 per cent.

Soviet designers have developed a sewing machine in which ultra-sound waves replace conventional thread.

The state budget has earmarked 11,000 million roubles for the development of light industry. This huge capital investment will enable the completion of over 500 industrial projects by the end of the five-year plan.

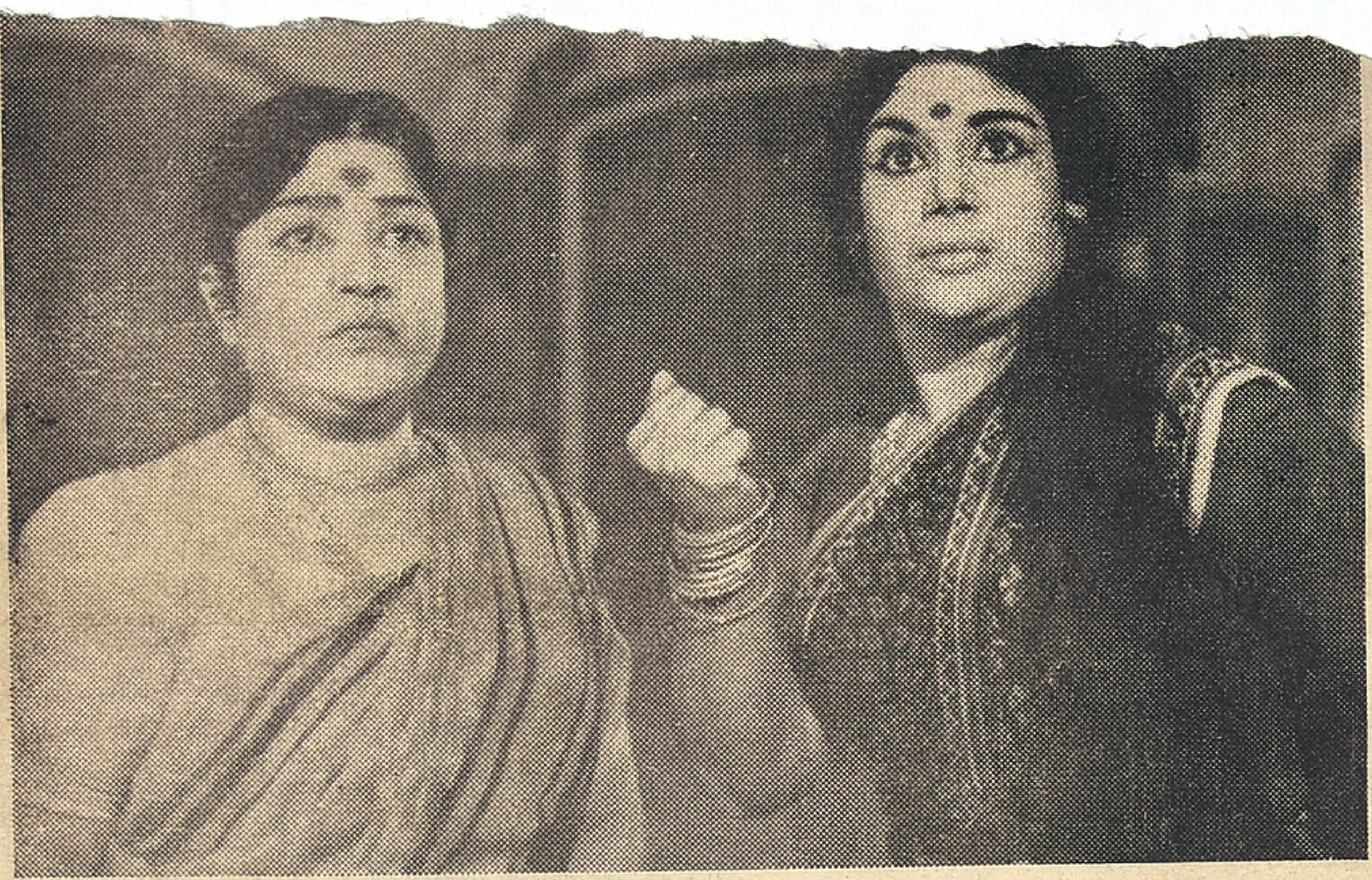


Walking and singing dolls.

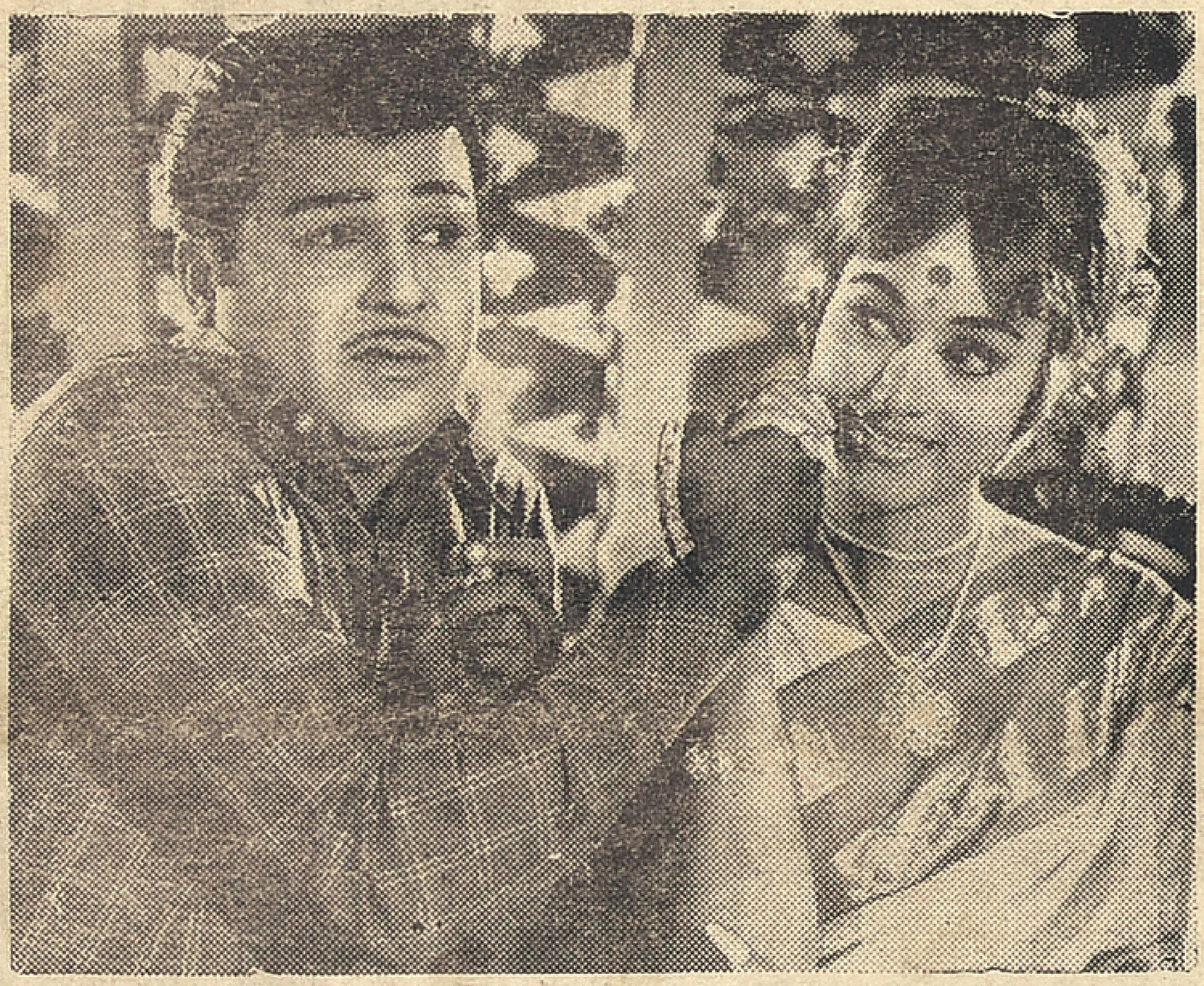


A general view of the exhibition showing the achievements of the Soviet Consumer-goods industry.

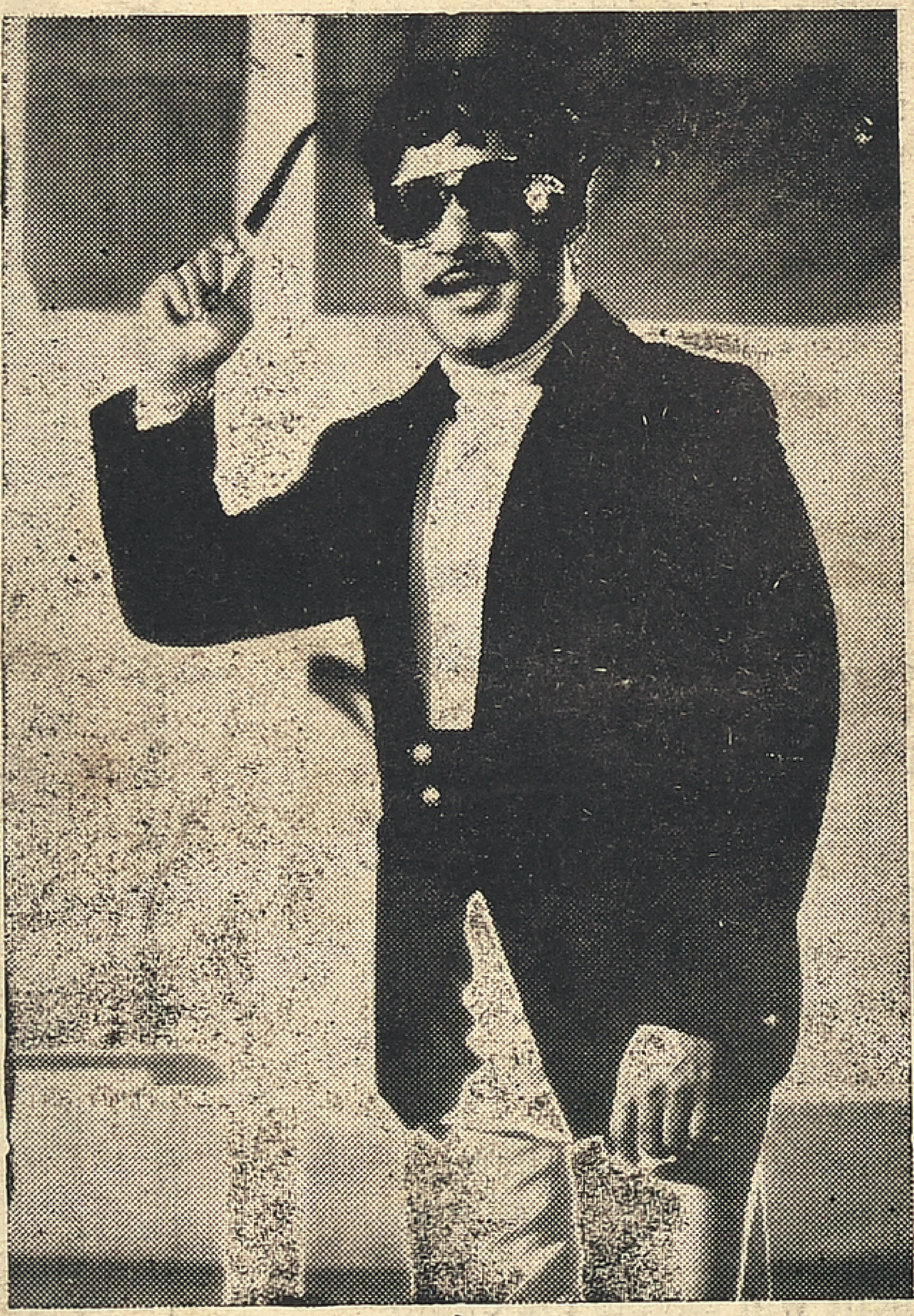
COIMBATORE



M. N. Rajam and C. K. Saraswathi in Ashok Pictures' "Vanthale Maharasi" being released throughout Tamil Nadu next week.



Bharathi and Jaishankar in "Pon Vandu" produced by Manian Pictures



Sivaji Gan san in Jagapathi Art Pictures' maiden Tamil venture "Engal Thanga Raja"

K. R. Vijaya, Devika, Rajasulochana and Manorama in Cine Bharath's "Bharathavilas" produced and directed by A. C. Thirulokachander

Lakshmi and A. Sakunthala in Shanthi Combines' "Thirumalai Theivam" A.P. Nagarajan is in charge of screenplay, dialogue and direction

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